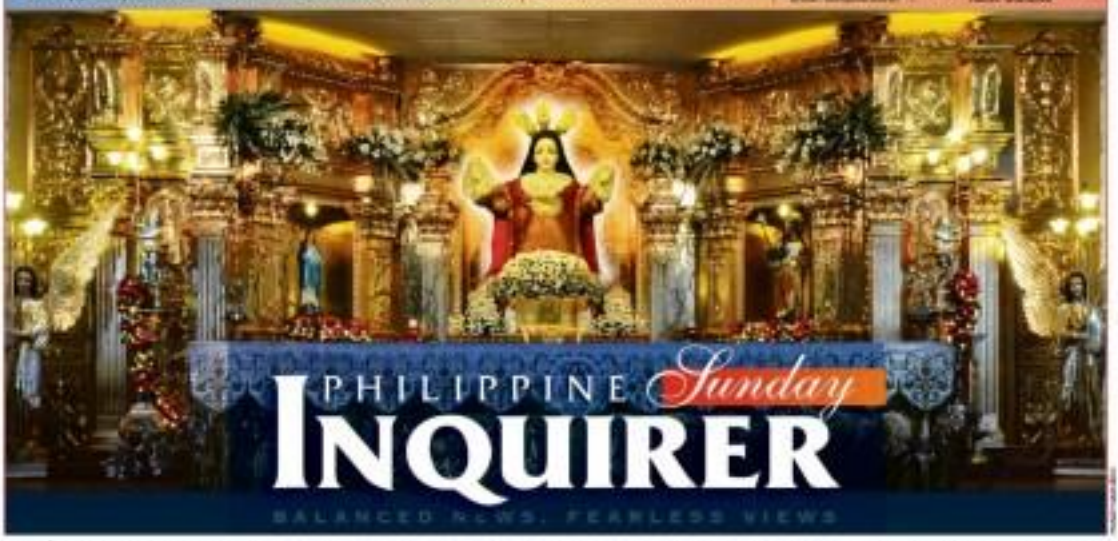
Sunday, January 15, 2012 ★★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 38 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ to 2899 (globe/TM) to 4407 www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet



STO. NIÑO'S GILDED GLORY The Boy King reigns amid the gold-leafed altar designed by interior designer Tony Antioco at the Sto. Niño Chapel on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City. The chapel is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bautista Vizlogo to the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, founded by designer Ben Farrales. The 300-year-old Sto. Niño de Pandacan is another storied icon celebrated for its miracles. (See story below.)

WB: Loan to SC high risk

Final tranche canceled due to irregular expenses

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME COURT under the watch of Chief Justice Renato Corona has been weighed and found wanting.

The World Bank has uncovered questionable procurements and disbursements in the high court in connection with the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP). The project, partly funded by a World Bank loan of $21.9 million (P938.75 million at an exchange rate of P42.59 to $1), was designed to restore efficiency in the dispensation of justice in the country.

In an aide memoire, the World Bank said that since Corona assumed his post in mid-2010, progress in reforming the judiciary "has been rated unsatisfactory," with "implementation delays and additional work required for smooth project closing."

YB. LOANS A6

Corona plans to face accusers at Senate • Prosecutors expect Corona to dig in/ A6

WINGED VICTORY The Philippine Eagle's wing span of 7 feet is world's broadest. Pag-asa flaps off at the eagle sanctuary in Davao City.

First eagle born, bred in captivity turns 20, loveless, childless

By Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—"Pag-asa," the first Philippine Eagle bred and hatched in captivity, turns 20 today, but with neither mate nor offspring.

Pag-asa's successful hatching in 1992 was considered a breakthrough, giving conservationists hope of beefing up the dwindling eagle population and leading to other successful hatching efforts in that year.

PAG-ASA A4

'Hidden' Sto. Niño for 300 years to rise

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MORE than the flamboyant dancing and merrymaking that every year engulf the streets of Pandacan in honor of the Sto. Niño, this tiny enclave district in eastern Manila has all the trappings of what its parish priest calls a "Little Nazareth."

While it is known that its patron saved the town from being crushed by Spanish colonial troops in the 1890s, Pandacan's story has been overshadowed by the more spectacular tales of the miracles wrought by the Holy Child in other parts of the country, including another old Manila district to the north, Tondo.

But parish priest Fr. Lauro Alaco believes that after being unknown and "hidden" for hundreds of years, the Sto. Niño de Pandacan will rise and begin to "do its public ministry" come Nov. 23, its 300th anniversary.

"If you look at it with a spiritual eye, it's just right because if you look at the Nazareth experience, Jesus was hidden for 30 years. In our case, it is 300 years of hidden life of Jesus in Pandacan," Alaco said in an interview.

A Boy King (vernacular for "polished" or "well-prepared") dance festival and a solemn High Mass officiated by the new Manila Archbishop Luis

HIDDEN' A2

Power of 9 awes, inspires young global shapers

By Tarra Quismundo

THERE'S the unlikely town mayor: a tanned, svelte 24-year-old, who left her job at luxury brand Chanel to serve her hometown. And then, the outspoken 23-year-old marine protection advocate, now preparing the speech of a lifetime she will deliver before heads of state, royalty, business leaders and other people of power and influence.

They round up the power party of nine, the first batch of young Filipinos selected to join the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Young Global Shapers.

Launched only last year, the YGS is envisioned to jump-start a community of young people working together to pursue change initiatives in their home countries and represent the youth voice in the WEF, the Geneva-based nonprofit committed to improving the world.

The WEF is best known for its

9 PINOYS A6

Defense: Powerhouse dream team underdog

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE JOB would be easier if it were done in a regular court of law.

The lawyers assembled to defend Chief Justice Renato Corona at his impeachment trial that starts tomorrow are a powerhouse of seasoned litigators, law professors and bar reviewers, with more than three centuries of legal experience added together. But the team led by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas considers itself "definitely" an underdog.

From a purely legal perspective, Corona's lawyers may be considered a dream team.

"This is an uphill battle in light of the very powerful personalities we are up against," Ramon Esguerra, one of the lawyers who will argue for Corona, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"So we don't look at the case only on the basis of what is going to be tried before the Senate. We look beyond, and we know that as far as prosecutors [are concerned], we give flak to the [prosecution] panel and

DEFENSE A4

Prosecution: Out to oust CJ, make history

By Cynthia D. Balana

CAN a popular President oust a sitting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

An 11-member prosecution team from the House of Representatives is set to make history tomorrow by showing how, as it shifts the battle from the media to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court.

The prosecutors lineup is a mix of legal "lightweights and heavyweights," graduates of the country's premiere law schools, and includes two bar topnotchers, two certified public accountants, two bar reviewers, an economist and practicing trial lawyers. Most of the members are scions of rich and influential political clans.

They will be backstopped by 59 private prosecutors, an average of four to 11 private lawyers for each of the eight articles of impeachment. Panel spokesperson Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara said all 59 private lawyers have volunteered their services free of charge.

In an interview, some panel members admitted that the campaign to "free" the

PROSECUTION A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

LIFESTYLE • True story behind Susie's story **• Countdown** to Shalani-Roman nuptials **GLOBAL PINOY • New hope** for OFW on death row Dondon Lanuza **ENTERTAINMENT • Pitt,** Jolie to occupy prime table at Golden Globes **WORLD • US** to restore full relations with Burma

SUSIE, PAQUI ORTIGAS

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Ilagan	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Aparri	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Basco	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with rain

Virac	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Masbate	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Dumaguete	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Surigao	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Dipolog	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy

MALAKOT SA SUNOG ANG ALAKI SA BARILI!

6/42

2011	5	1
2010	3	23
2009	12	20

SUPERLOTTO

2011	4	7	9
2010	6	3	2
2009	0	8	3

SIX DIGIT (Tuesday)

8 3 9 2 8 7

4/42 LUZ, MIN, MIN

1 4 28 34 39 42

P3,207,169.80

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

18 20 27 32 42 47

P105,764,976.00

LOTTO: TMS Dec 2011 LOTTO, result to 1942. PCSO photo

Narcs raid 2 more Alabang homes

By DJ Yap

TWO MORE houses at exclusive Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City were raided by antinarcotics agents Friday night who found drug-making paraphernalia and about three kilograms of "shabu" or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

The latest raids by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) came on the heels of the Jan. 7 raid on another house in the village that yielded shabu and the equipment to make it.

No arrests were made, however, in the latest raids as both houses were empty when the agents arrived to serve a search warrant issued by a Manila court, the PDEA said. A tipster had alerted the agency about the drug laboratories allegedly operated by groups of Chinese men.

"Based on our initial assessment, they were medium-scale clandestine laboratories, but we are still investigating how big exactly the operation was. An inventory of the drug evidence is ongoing," said PDEA public information chief Evangeline Sherman.

The first raid at 11 p.m. occurred at 319 Kandaya St. where PDEA operatives found about three kilograms of undiluted shabu powder, lab equipment and assorted chemicals, including boxes of Kreutzer cold tablets from which the chemical ephedrine could be extracted to make shabu.

At P5,000 per gram, the street value of three kilograms of shabu is P15 million.

More laboratory equipment, "chemicals and chemical wastes and residue" were found at the second address, 336 Country Club Drive, Sherman said.

"We are investigating to determine if the two clandestine laboratories were in any way connected to the clandestine laboratory at 304 Acacia Avenue," said Almendrala, referring to the house on a one-hectare property that was raided in the other week.

In a television interview Saturday, PDEA National Capital Region Director Pedrito Maglaya said the houses were being owned by Chinese tenants who could have been connected to the five Chinese arrested in the first raid.

He identified a "Man Lee" and a "Mr. Wang," as among those who owned the properties. He said the owners of the homes, whom he did not name, told investigators the Chinese began leasing the houses on yearlong contracts in September.

Owners' denial

Maglaya said the tenants—a Filipino and the other who appeared to be of Chinese descent—denied knowing anything about the drug activities of their tenants, although their claims would have to be investigated.

"We don't have specific information about the location [of the Chinese suspects] but we are hoping they are still in the country," Maglaya said.

Almendrala said the drug bust on Acacia "must have prompted the people operating the two clandestine laboratories to abandon them."

In the raid on the Acacia house, PDEA agents arrested five Chinese suspects and seized truckloads of drug paraphernalia and equipment.

5 charged in first raid

Investigators have discovered that the house leased by the suspects for P300,000 a month was registered under the name of Puerto Holdings, a company controlled by the late philanthropist Gonzalo Madrigal Collantes.

The man who bailed from Hong Kong were arrested in that raid and charged with drug manufacture and possession of drugs and drug-making equipment. Luis Ee Chuay, 51, Alex Siling Chua, aside alias Lao Tse Hin, 49, Erick Chi Ruang, 42, Choi Yiu Chun, 33, and Choi Yiu Ki, 33.

The back-to-back drug raids prompted Ayala Alabang homeowners to revisit their leasing procedures.

Ayala Alabang Insurgency Chair Alfred Burgos was quoted in a TV report as saying: "The Ayala Alabang Village Association, which is the guardian of security for this village, is now reviewing the processes of tenants and agents involved in leasing procedures."

Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro Jimenez Bonoan, Ayala Alabang officials to explain how the drug laboratories were "able to operate under their noses," city public information office chief Omar Acosta said.

"There could be sanctions if they are found to be remiss in their jobs," Acosta quoted the mayor as saying.

Barangay mandate

"Maintaining a drug-free environment is part of (a barangay's) mandate under the Local Government Code," the mayor added.

Following the discovery of a shabu laboratory on Jan. 7, barangay divested Barangay Ayala Alabang officials in words drawn by with the village association to running up with measures on addressed the problem.

"Hindi lang drugs kasi baka may ibang illegal activities na nangyayari sa loob na hindi natin alam [It's not just drugs because there might be other illegal activities that are happening that we don't know about]," Acosta further quoted the mayor as saying.

San Pedro Jimenez also called for a review of the village's security framework.

He asked for the homeowners' cooperation, adding that it was for their own good.

TWO D the house at 119 Rainbow St., Ayala Alabang Village, where anti-narcotics agents said they found three kilograms of shabu; more P15 million and drug-making equipment and ingredients. They also raided another house for drugs in the posh subdivision on Friday night.

Improved PH rankings belie criticism—Palace

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday welcomed the Philippines' improved ranking in the World Bank's economic freedom index and its top 10 finish in HSBC's survey of the friendliest countries for expatriates.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said they were assessments made by third parties with no motive to unduly criticize President Aquino and his administration.

"Perhaps... we can say that these are third-party assessments that have no axe to grind against the present administration," Valte said even more raw radio shtiff.

"Other people might say that, of course, the administration will always pronounce what is good, what is good with the economy and people on the opposite side of the fence will almost, will always pronounce what is good about them and what is bad about the present," she said.

Valte was apparently referring to a paper written by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who blamed President Aquino for supposedly failing to sustain the high economic growth rate that she left behind when her term ended in 2010 since the latter was too engrossed with chronicling her and wasting her legacy.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad has assured Arroyo, saying she was a failure as president.

Abad also said the high growth rate left by Arroyo was a result of the massive election spending in 2010.

The budget secretary added that contrary to Arroyo's criticism of ineffective leadership, the Aquino administration had received five credit ratings upgrades after just 19 months in office.

"But at least here we have third-party assessments and we can see recommendations (for improvement) and the positive findings as well," Valte said.

Valte noted that the Philippines went up to 105th from 111th in the WB economic freedom index because of economic expansion and the efforts of the government to pursue legislative reforms to enhance the business environment.

"So assessments from the third party note that our regulatory efficiency has been notably improved in the past two years. Aquino is saying that we are really after—efficiency in government. We have been trying to streamline systems," Valte said.

Valte said the report also mentioned that while there have been improvements, corruption continues to undermine progress by long-term economic development and the judiciary remains susceptible to political pressure.

Minority sets leadership caucus

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

QUEZON Rep. and Deputy Minority Leader Danilo Suarez will hold a caucus of allies of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Pampanga this week to finalize the minority blueprint for the House of Representatives.

Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay confirmed the holding of a minority caucus which should settle the leadership row between Minority leader and Iloilo Rep. Edcel Lagman and Suarez a day before Congress resumes sessions on Monday.

In a phone interview, Lagman said he was not aware of any minority caucus and that he was confident he would remain as the minority leader despite what he described as a plot by Arroyo to oust him and replace him with her "loyal traveling companion" Suarez.

"I don't think he will get the numbers," said Lagman, referring to Suarez's claim that at least 58 of the 29 House minority members supported the Quezon representative's bid to become the next minority leader.

Suarez has insisted that Arroyo merely vetoed Lagman to honor a term-sharing agreement they entered into at the start of the 15th Congress in July 2010, by which Suarez would take over as Minority Leader in the latter half of the three-year term.

Any leadership change in the minority bloc should be carried by a majority vote of its 29 members, and the outcome is to be analyzed during the plenary session on Monday.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said that as far as the House was concerned, Lagman would be the minority leader until Suarez comes up with a resolution signed by majority of the minority bloc members voting him as their leader.

The leadership dispute in the minority has come at an inopportune time when its leader, Arroyo, has been placed under hospital arrest on electoral sabotage charges filed by the Department of Justice and the Commission on Elections with the Pasay City regional trial court.

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7 US solons here to discuss stronger ties with PH

By Tina G. Santos

A SEVEN-MEMBER United States congressional delegation arrived in the country on Friday to discuss with Philippine government officials ways to strengthen ties between the Philippines and the US, as well as various issues that could affect the allocation of US foreign financial assistance.

The delegation was led by US House committee on appropriations chair Rep. Kimball Rogers, who came with Representatives Herman D. Bohn, Andre Goodlow, Rodney Alexander, Steven C. LaTourette, Tom Cole and Michael K. Simpson.

They were accompanied to a meeting on Saturday with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario by US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr.

The issues covered during the meeting included the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) conflict over the Spratlys islands, trade and economic relations, human rights, and issues affecting the democratization of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), according to a statement from the DFA.

During the meeting, Del Rosario briefed the US legislators on maneuvers being undertaken by the Aquino administration with respect to human rights and the rule of law, and moves to end the culture of impunity, the DFA said.

The foreign secretary also made a quick list of the Philippines' urgent need for additional Frontier High Endurance Cutters (FHEC) vessels and a squadron of F-16s fighter planes.

Aside from trade and security relations, US appropriations for foreign aid are also tied to a country's human rights record, including its efforts to stop human trafficking.

According to the DFA statement, Rogers had said, "Certainly, we can attest to the fact that this administration is doing all it can to right the wrongs of the past," adding, "we want you to know that we want you to achieve your goals."

Del Rosario also "sought the American legislators' support for the enactment into law of the Save Our Industries Act (Save Act) which is a 'win-win' proposition because it will increase US revenue streams and Philippine garment exports," the DFA statement added.

The Save Act aims to clarify US tariffs on certain categories of Philippine-produced garments made of US fabrics or yarn.

The US legislators told Del Rosario they would discuss these issues with the members of the US executive branch and "keep an eye on them."

The American lawmakers are leaving today

No one will escape, jail officials vow

JAIL officials on Friday vowed tougher measures to ensure "zero escapes" this year by inmates of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) facilities and outside in response to Justice Secretary Jesse M. Robredo's three-day call.

In a statement, BJMP Director Rosendo M. Ibay vowed tighter jail security and better dispensation of all administrative cases against jail guards.

In his New Year's message on Jan. 8, Robredo challenged the BJMP to ensure that "all inmates are 100 percent in and not one is out" of the jails.

The directive came in the wake of a number of escapes in 2011, some of them involving high-profile prisoners, including three suspected Chinese drug dealers who escaped from the Parañaque city jail allegedly with the help of the guards.

Offhand, BJMP officials could not give the number of jail escapes in 2011 but an information officer admitted there was a "slight rise" from 2010.

Ibay said he immediately called for a meeting with the BJMP's director for investigation and prosecution, directors for intelligence, legal service and other key officers to review policy and enforcement plans of action for 2012.

"We are really challenged by the statement of the secretary that is why we are actually working hard and improving internal vigilance in the safekeeping operations of the inmates," Ibay said.

"We know it's a tough challenge for us, of course but we will do our best to prevent escapes from our facilities. And because it's a tough challenge, we will be tough also in meting punishment up to giving them the maximum penalty of dismissal if the evidence warrants it," he said.

Ibay also identified 39 days for the disposition of administrative cases of the BJMP officials, including those for the escape of inmates.

"We want to send a serious message and reminder to our personnel that we are really in business and heads will definitely roll if they fall short of what the bureau expects of them," he said. AUlup

Correction

IN THE JAN. 14 ISSUE, the banner story—"Corona saves wealth: 12 000"—inaccurately described the Ayala-owned The Columns on Ayala Avenue. Rentals Avenue is composed of three 42-story towers. The towers are only 30 stories high.

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"PAG-ASA" came a striking look from his cage.

IN THE KNOW

"PAG-ASA" was conceived through artificial insemination and was laid in November 1991 by captive Philippine Eagle Dodo using mere donor's semen.

It was Dodo's fourth fertile egg and the first to hatch.

The severe power crisis in Mindanao threatened the egg's survival, with the province that automatically provided electricity during power outages ending out once every nine hours.

Then Eagle Camp manager Domingo Dalora and his staff had to wrap the egg in a water-filled rubber pack, the temperature of which was carefully calculated and maintained.

A quake also briefly threatened Pag-asa's survival, as did an apparent draining of the egg. The likely appliance of colorless nail polish proved effective in hardening the shell.

Pag-asa's eventual hatching in 1992 was the result of 10 years of research and experimentation on the country's national bird.

American Express Bank adopted Pag-asa in 1992 and has been providing financial aid to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), a Davao-based nonprofit, nongovernment organization dedicated to saving the endangered species and its rainforest habitat.

Before Pag-asa, only 17 eagles had been identified to exist in the Philippines—13 in captivity and 24 associated with wild nests.

As part of the efforts to boost the dwindling eagle population in the wild, Kabayan, an eagle also bred and hatched in captivity, was released in the wild in 2004—the first captive-bred eagle ever released.

The Philippine Eagle is a 1-foot-high rainforest raptor with a wingspan of 7 ft., the broadest in the world. Deforestation and hunting have threatened its survival.

It is estimated that only 400 pairs of these eagles remain in the islands of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao. Thirty-six eagles, 18 of these bred in captivity, are housed at the PEF Center located at the foothills of Mt. Apo in Davao. — Ana Roa, Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

First eagle bred in captivity turns 20

From page A1

and the nest.

At 20, Pag-asa is at the prime of his life, according to biologist Anna Mae Sumaya, the curator of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) breeding program in Malagos here. (The oldest eagle at the eagle farm is 43 years old.)

Eagles are supposed to reach sexual maturity at five years of age. But Pag-asa's earliest production has been sporadic, preventing successful artificial insemination despite the best efforts of PEF conservationists.

"Pag-asa is not very interested about Pag-asa's offspring. They think he already has one," Sumaya said.

Suspecting that the eagle might be stressed by his proximity to humans, conservationists have isolated him from visitors since 2008.

"He does not like the company of people except for his surrogate parent/mate," Sumaya said, referring to eagle caretaker Eddie Jumilla.

Imprinting

Pagasa has been "imprinted" on humans, Sumaya said. She said that since the eagle was hatched, he had identified closely with Jumilla as his parent and, during the mating season, as his mate.

Imprinting is defined as a rapid learning process that takes place early in the life of an animal and establishes a behavior pattern involving recognition of and attraction to identifiable attributes of its own kind or a substitute.

"Pag-asa depends for most of his needs, including food, on his mate. It's possible that he has already bonded with his mate," Sumaya said.

During the breeding months from July to February, Jumilla brings Pag-asa syrup from hardwood trees, playing the part of the female eagle during courtship.

But unlike other eagles in the wild, Pag-asa has been "performed on artificial stimuli," such as a dive chase during courtship or a paired soaring flight during the mating season.

"If you see him spreading his wings from end to end and wagging his tail, then he prepared. It's the eagle's attack position," Sumaya said, shedding.

It being the mating season, people visiting Pag-asa on his birthday will only be allowed to stand 15-20 meters from where he perches.

But they will also be treated to some games aimed at heightening awareness of the Philippine Eagle and its importance.

Slow breeder

Conservation efforts are "a must" to reduce the eagle population, according to PEF executive director Dennis Salvador.

"Since we are very unlikely to cope with the threats that eaglets encounter in the wild," Salvador said, "Many of them still get shot at, and at the rate this is going on, we are in grave danger of losing the Philippine Eagle."

Sumaya agreed, saying that the country and locking more eagles feeder than the PEF could breed there at the eagle farm. She said that eaglets with good survival could hunting out at the PEF Center, and that often the injuries were too grave for the birds to survive.

Philippine Eagles hatch an egg only once in every two years, explained Jayson Ibañez, PEF director for research.

"What makes the conservation task more daunting is the fact that by biological design, the bird is a slow breeder—one egg in every two years. But the high mortality rate makes it very difficult to replace one eagle killed in the wild," Ibañez said.

More serious threats

But the more serious threats are logging and mining activities, which continue to put pressure on the country's remaining forests, Salvador said.

He said the call for conservation was even more urgent now, with the country beginning to feel the effects of climate change and global warming.

"Twenty years ago, we were already telling that we have to invest in saving the eagle, saving the forest, because that's the only way we can save ourselves. If we had only invested in the past, then we won't have as grave a problem as we have now," he said.

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Corona plans to face accusers at Senate

By Christine V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona intends to appear at the Senate impeachment court to answer to three bar accusers.

"That was the emerging consensus" at Corona's meeting with his legal team at his office in Makati City yesterday afternoon, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada told the Inquirer by phone.

Estrada said Corona would attend the first day of the trial after "to those suspected of being in cahoots" with the prosecution panel, from members of the defense team, to the impeachment court judges.

Corona may not seek, however, before the Supreme Court should the charges against any of the decisions made by the Senate impeachment court, according to Estrada, Lucenito Mr. Tamayo, spokesperson and a professor of constitutional law.

"That is not clear in the Constitution and in the deliberations of the Constitutional Commission," Lucenito said in a phone interview.

Can't go to SC

He added, "The contention is the Supreme Court cannot second-guess the decisions of the Senate sitting as an impeachment court."

"The Senate sitting as impeachment court is an expression of the sovereign will of the people that has been lodged in and delegated exclusively to the Constitution, to the Senate."

Corona's lawyers Inquirer last earlier said that the defense team would go to the Supreme Court if the Senate impeachment court decided against its motion for a postponement.

Tuko said Malacañang would be monitoring the impeachment process, but added that the work of the executive branch would continue.

"Of course, the President did say that we will be monitoring (the proceedings) in the impeachment trial. But on the side of the executive branch, it's business as usual," he said.

Defense: Powerhouse dream

From page A1

theme behind it," said Esguerra (no relation to the reporter).

Senator Defensor III, another member of the defense team, rejected the idea that his camp could easily overwhelm the prosecutors from the House of Representatives, who are said to be bolstered by the present lack of legal experience. Some government lawyers closely observing the case in general feel the prosecution led by Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. would be "outmatched."

"No, it's unfair to say that," Defensor said in a separate phone interview. "I don't underestimate anybody. That is an entirely different level today and there is no substitute for preparation."

Added Esguerra: "You always assume that your opponent is good."

'Volunteer work'

Corona's lawyer are aware that the House prosecutors and their senior bar, have many years in highly paid legal practice and technically their assignment is pro bono.

"In the first place, we are not highly paid. We are not even paid to do this. This is volunteer work," Esguerra said.

"We will not get interest for the Senate impeachment court," he said. "The passage rates in the term have [also] been advised not to be that. We will not in respectful. We will remain delivering. We will be patient in protecting the interest of the Chief Justice. There is no other way."

Prep: at least 2 hours

The defense team is making preparations on five fronts—the Senate impeachment court and the bigger court of public opinion.

Esguerra admitted that the impeachment trial presents new challenges in that the decision on whether Corona should be convicted would not depend solely on evidence and on his being proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

"It's simple," he said, pointing out that five-eighth articles of impeachment would be subject to whether if there were to be argument in a regular court. "But it's more difficult to deal with public perception."

Salvador added in Filipino: "In [a regular] court, we would not be encountering a lot of difficulties because the judge will understand everything. But there's also the element of public opinion, and that's the difficulty in this case."

Part of the team's preparations is how to "properly deliver the message" both to the senator-judges and to the public at large, who will be observing the proceedings in various media platforms, including social media.

"[The public] should also understand the proceedings, the evidence, the presentations," Salvador said.

Lack of 'media darling'

One challenge in this regard could be the lack of a so-called "media darling" in the mold of say, Romulo Macalintal, or Atty. Lorna de Lima, in the defense team. The members are all accomplished and respected men of the law but in an arena where popularity is a major factor, they have some serious work to do.

Esguerra said the defense team was confirmed by a combination of Corona's low trust rating (per the recent Social Weather Stations survey), President Aquino's immense popularity, and a supposed public perception that the Chief Justice was guilty of the charges (betrayed by public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution).

The President is seen as the prime mover of Corona's impeachment, which was prepared and staffed by opposition to the initiative of the ruling Liberal Party in a matter of hours on Dec. 12.

"Even now, the Chief Justice has been judged to be guilty by the public," Esguerra said, harping blame on the release in the media of documents and pictures concerning Corona's alleged properties before the trial could begin.

Salvador lamented that reports on the properties of prosecutors like Tupas and previous Bar Corona vote concept. (Corona himself has declared that he owned only five houses—not 40, as alleged by Tupas—and acquired most of them in the course of his legal practice. He said the family residence in Forbes Park, Taguig, was inherited from his mother.)

"Many people just read the headlines and already make a judgment," Salvador said. "They don't see the actual proceedings. They don't really understand the procedures and what's going on. We have to make them understand."

Who's who

Esguerra said he and his colleagues were driven by the resolve to "respect, obey and defend the Constitution."

"You include the historical significance of the trial, your participating in a big case like this from a professional standpoint. But then, to me, a parochial: I have to look at the bigger picture—the rule of law is supreme over individuals," he said.

The team includes the likes of Eduardo de los Angeles, former dean of Ateneo Law School, and retired Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, who, Salvador says, are "a national treasure" and "a genius gifted with a photographic memory" who "knows every Supreme Court decision like the back of his hand."

Like Salvador, De los Angeles and Nachura are partners in top law firm Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles. Abaya, however, says they are temporarily resigning.

Of the 20 lawyers who volunteered to defend Corona, at least three have impeachment experience: Carpio, defended former President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial in 2001; Defensor was with the prosecution team then, and Esguerra was tapped to help then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. when he faced an impeachment complaint in 2003.

Cayetano Lubiano II and Dennis Manalo of Lubiano Ayson Mendiola & Gaganiso, the leading law firm in the country, are also part of the defense team.

Manalo is described by the firm as concentrating on "criminal and labor litigation [with] substantial experience in mid-market and appellate practice."

A partner of the firm, Lubiano is described as "an intercorporate dispute litigator whose experience includes hostile corporate takeover and control." He also "handles a wide array of cases that include business crimes, medical malpractice, construction and commercial arbitration, professional and business tort or contractual controversies."

Corona's lawyers also include Jose Roy III, another product of Ateneo Law School and former dean of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's Law School, and Joel Rodagio, Ilaya Benitez, Basil Lazaro, and Rico Paolo Quicho.

Victory expected

Assignments have been turned out, with each lawyer designated to a particular article of impeachment.

And after all is said and done, Corona's camp is necessarily expecting victory.

"We expect to have a total of everything," Esguerra said. "You really have to work down and be calm about it. If you have done everything humanly possible, what else do you get? You left it all up to God."

Besides, he said, "the judgment that people give against you is not necessarily the judgment of history or of God."

Prosecution: Out to oust CJ, make history

From page A1

Supreme Court of Corona has turned out to be much busier than they imagined.

'Daunting and exciting'

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the chief prosecutor, said the trial will be both "daunting and exciting," as he anticipates looking back with more emotional considerations from the camp of the Chief Justice and with the "purest legal and political minds in the Senate."

He said he is motivated by the desire to seek justice and fairness from the highest court of the land.

"This changes it for a part of our quest to have former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now Pampanga representative, pay for all her crimes to the people so we invest in this technical effort to answer an unswerving Chief Justice who we believe was precisely appointed to protect her," Tupas said.

Corona is accused of betrayal of public trust, graft and corruption, and culpable violation of the Constitution. He was impeached last February 28 by congressmen who filed the impeachment complaint and delivered the eight articles of impeachment to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court in a matter of hours last Dec. 12.

Their assignments

Tupas, the chair of the House committee on justice that initiated the impeachment complaint against Corona, will argue the article dealing with Corona's alleged partiality and subservience to close associates of the Arroyo administration, with Bataan Rep. Antonio Roman Pacis Jr. and Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr.

The son of a former Iloilo governor, Tupas, 42, finished political science, magna cum laude, and law, as the University of the Philippines.

Roman, 70, is a seasoned CPA and trial lawyer and has practiced both here and in the United States. He finished business administration, cum laude, at the University of the East and took his law degree, cum laude, at the University of the Philippines. He placed 11th in the 1997 bar examinations. He served as senior defense counsel in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

A human rights lawyer, Colmenares has litigated a long list of cases in civil, criminal, constitutional and electoral law. He took up economics degree at San Beda College and completed his law degree at UP in 1996.

Not judicial but political

Colmenares's claims not to be threatened by the stuck defense team, saying the House prosecutors' collective experience will help win the case.

But he said this was not a disservice factor as in the end, impeachment is not a judicial proceeding but a political act of republican body.

The prosecutors' preparation is also timely focus on convincing the senators to convict on the basis of preponderance of the rules of court but on what is just and in the interest of the common good and good governance, he said.

"What we will present: evidence as to speak, we will not be bound by the Rules of Court," Colmenares said.

The article dealing with Corona's alleged failure to disclose his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) will be argued by the prosecutors by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., Pangasinan Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas and Tupas.

Barzaga, 62, has a degree in commerce, cum laude, from San Beda College, and finished law, magna cum laude, from Far Eastern University.

Agabas finished commerce at University of Santo Tomas and law at Ateneo. She was a trial lawyer in Pangasinan before joining Congress.

Iloilo Rep. Giorgel Aggabao, Akbayan party-list member Arlene Bag-ao and Cibac party-list member Sherwin Tugna will take care of the article dealing with Corona's alleged failure to "issue and observe the necessary standards" of a member of the judiciary.

Aggabao finished BSA in the 1980 for cum laude from Ateneo de Manila University in 1984.

At 34, the youngest member of the panel, Tugna was admitted to the bar in 2007. He obtained his law degree from Ateneo de Manila university and a commerce degree from University of Santo Tomas.

Guidance case

Bulacan and Cavite's Members Rep. Reynaldo Umali will handle the article dealing with Corona's alleged disregard for the separation of powers by issuing a status quo ante order against the House of Representatives in the impeachment of Senate President Marcelino Libanan.

Bag-ao finished political science at De La Salle University, and obtained her law degree from Ateneo de Manila University.

A lawyer-economist, Umali obtained a degree in economics at Ateneo de Manila University in 1976, and in law at San Beda College and Manuel L. Quezon University in 1987.

Barzaga and Aggabao will handle the article dealing with Corona's alleged "betrayal of his administrative and partiality in connection with dispensing the principles of wrongful acts" in the cases involving the 26 newly created cities, and the promotion of Diosdado Inland into 4 positions.

Tupas and Reps. Henry Rep. Rodolfo Fortunato will handle the article involving Corona of "usurping unto himself and to a committee he created, the authority and jurisdiction to improperly investigate a justice of the Supreme Court for the purpose of encroaching him," in the plagiarism case involving Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo.

Prosecutor who did not sign

Fortuno finished his law degree at Ateneo de Manila University in 1978 and placed eighth in the bar examinations. He has the distinction of being the only prosecutor who did not sign the impeachment complaint.

Colmenares said Inza will handle the article charging Corona with alleged partiality in granting a temporary restraining order in favor of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, and in allegedly "distorting the Supreme Court decision on the effectivity of the TRO in view of a clear failure to comply with the conditions of the TRO."

Umali and Aggabao will argue the article charging Corona with graft and corruption for allegedly failing and refusing to account for the Judiciary Development Fund and Special Allowance for the Judiciary collections.

Cavite City Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya, the 12th member of the prosecution panel who will serve as its managers is a former Navy officer who obtained a degree in economics from the Philippine Military Academy.

With a report from GMA, Cebu bureau

Prosecutors expect Corona to dig in

By Gil Cabacungan

THE HOUSE prosecution team expects impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona to "dig in" at the Senate trial but a House leader doubts that Corona can withstand the pain of his wife and children being dragged into what could become a very nasty trial.

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., prosecutor and three have been on fronts from Corona that he would resign rather than have trial amid the House prosecutors' release the bank records of a long list of properties held together their close Corona and his family, but accumulated.

"We might dig in," said Tupas, who is one of the House prosecutors.

Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad is spoofed speculations of any possible compromise deal allowing Corona a "graceful exit" similar to the case of former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo between who spent in April last year just days before the start of her impeachment trial. Abad was present when Gutierrez personally handed to her resignation letter to President Aquino in Malacañang.

Too late for deal

"I think it's too late for any compromise deal. The House prosecution team is prepared to see the trial through to its final conclusion," said Abad in a phone interview.

Abad said Corona could opt to resign in the middle of the impeachment trial but there was no guarantee that the votes against him would not be pushed. It bar him from holding any public office in the future.

A source from the Corona camp, who requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak for the group, said the Chief Justice had decided to challenge his post only if he would be allowed to choose his successor in a proposal which was quickly shot down by Palace intermediaries.

Aksyon Minority Leader Reynaldo Evangelista II doubted that Corona would be able to withstand the "extreme embarrassment" not only against him but also against his wife and his children that the prosecution will present.

Different story

He noted that the impeachment trial runs a political risk, even as it seeks to would not tone down evidence on Corona's guilt solely on the evidence presented.

"I think the Chief Justice can't hold up on his vow that it will be a different story if his loved ones are dragged into the trial," said Gonzales.

He cited the case of the former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes who committed suicide before the Senate investigation on corruption in the military moved closer to involving his family in the probe.

The House prosecution team is expected to present a list of 40 assets worth more than P500 million allegedly owned by Corona, his wife, children and their relatives, based on records furnished by the Land Registration Authority.

Ronald Singson home after HK jail stint

By Leonela Babaylo
Reporter, Northern Luzon

HUAN CITY—Former Bocos Sur Rep. Ronald Singson arrived on the Manila-bound 11:40 am jet on the airport here at 6:50 p.m. yesterday, hours after his release from the Hong Kong jail where he served 12 months of an 18-month sentence for drug trafficking.

Accompanied by his father, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, and a brother, Ronaldo, Singson was immediately whisked away to the family's Subicare compound for a thanksgiving Mass and dinner.

Looking tired and frail in a thick coat, Singson was welcomed at the airport by his mother, Evelyn, and his siblings and other relatives.

Minutes of the province's first domino, which he served until his arrest last year, also welcomed him.

Singson was arrested at Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok International Airport on July 11, 2010, after 6.67 grams of cocaine and two caddies of tobacco were found in his possession.

He pleaded guilty, but his lawyer had argued in court that the drugs were for his personal use and were not intended to be sold.

Singson was sentenced on Feb. 24 last year to one year and six months imprisonment by a Hong Kong Court judge.

When he was arrested in Hong Kong in 2010, Singson had just won his second term in Bocos' lone representative.

He did not make any statement upon arrival at the airport.

But at the welcome dinner at the Subicare, Singson said he would spend "more time with my family, particularly my four-year-old daughter, Samantha."

His aunt, Mayor Genevieve Goulan of Cavayta town, said her nephew "had time to contemplate on life" while in prison.

Singson was replaced as congressman by his younger brother, Syrus Luis, who had said that his brother was released early "probably for good behavior."

RONALD Singson clambers down the steps of his family's private airplane on his arrival from Hong Kong where he is serving an 18-month jail sentence on drug charges. In front is his father, Bocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. (LEONELA BABAYLO)

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - January 23, 2011
Feast of Sto. Niño

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

A sun is given

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. A light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death.

You have widened the nation; you have increased their joy. They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest time, or when they share the spoils of victory.

For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken it as on the day of Midian.

For every boot that tramped down with noise and every cloak rolled in blood, will be burnt and fed to the fire.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us, the royal emblem is laid upon his shoulder, and he is given as a name: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

To the increase of his powerful rule or peace, there will be no end.

He will be his dominion to be still more so, David's throne and over all his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forward and forever.

The zealous love of Yahweh will do this.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, 13-18

Blessings in Jesus

Blessed be God, the Father of Our Jesus Christ our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing. God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and without sin in his presence.

From eternity he destined us in love to be his sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his own generous will.

The grace he has given us in the beloved made literally overflowing upon us.

I have been told of your faith and love of Jesus towards all the brethren, so I cannot give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom, that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance he gives God sets apart for his saints.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 (1st Thursday 1:14-15, 21b

Like a child

People were bringing their little children to have him touch them, and the disciples rebuked them for this.

When Jesus noticed it, he was very angry and said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and, laying his hands on them, blessed them.

WB: Loan to SC high risk

From page A1

The document detailed the results of a follow-up review conducted by a World Bank task team on Oct. 24 to 13, 2011, through discussions with members of the high court and field visits to courts all over the country.

"The review disclosed that the following environment pertaining to [Corona's] appointment has not deteriorated from the risk team now sees the JBDP as a 'high risk' and 'unsatisfactory' on project management, project procurement and financial management dimensions, and observes that project financial statements can no longer be relied upon," the World Bank said.

The review uncovered, among others, "inaccurate incomplete information" on the project's financial management report, "inaccurate existing internal check-and-balance procedures," "gaps in the use of information technology equipment outside of the agreed procurement plan, and the practice of borrowing funds from the loan for the judicial bonus benefit, paid to a travel agency owned by lawyer Midelio Bumanglag.

The World Bank is now demanding a refund of $1,99,000, covering "70 payments" deemed "ineligible" or inconsistent under the terms of the JBDP, by Jan. 31.

Review trigger

The World Bank initiated the Bilateral review when Corona was already appointed Chief Justice by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo despite an obvious flaw.

It said the review was "triggered by several unsolicited complaints" presented to the World Bank by the National's Program Management Office (PMO), "which seemed to signal a sudden and significant increase in the disbursement in the latter half of 2011."

"The project audit indicators depict achievements in several areas, but significant missed opportunities due to capacity and coordination constraints and delays in decision-making, procurement and contracting," it said.

Included in the "ineligible" purchases were the printing supply of the Court Reporter's Case Index, purchase of laptop computers, speaker's fee for seminars, registration fee of policies attending international conferences, and foreign travels of justices and their staff (including aides, hotel accommodations and meal allowances).

'Black peso'

Asked to comment, Ramon Esguerra, a spokesperson of Corona's legal team, yesterday said the accusation was "not at all very serious" in view of the articles of impeachment against the Chief Justice.

He said it was the high court as a whole, and not Corona alone, that should respond to the accusation.

"Two days before the opening of the trial and there's this report," Esguerra told the business paper. "The barrage of black propaganda has not ceased. In fact, it's now coming out with greater intensity."

Esguerra said media reports on Corona's alleged ill-gotten wealth, as well as the "incomplete" decision to implement the JBDP, were all part of "a pattern of harassment intended to demonize the Chief Justice in the eyes of the public."

"It's very sublime," he pointed out.

Corona himself said "it's hard to answer [the] 'unsolicited'" because he had yet to read the World Bank aide memoire.

The business sought his comment after a Tuesday press briefing yesterday afternoon at the Supreme Court grounds, the last of seven Mass for Corona's impeachment trial.

Corona attended the Mass with his wife and more than 100 sympathizers, including Former Philippine Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio.

The Chief Justice also said he had yet to decide when he would attend the opening of his impeachment trial tomorrow, contending Esguerra's statement that he would show up. (See story on Page A6.)

One-stop shop

According to the World Bank, the oldmodel internet-enabling mechanism in the high court was promulgated by Corona's appointment of one man to court administrator, head of the Public Information Office, and chair of the Bids and Awards Committee.

The court administrator was authorized to approve on Corona's behalf, payments of up to P200,000 which was later increased to P500,000, the World Bank said.

"Lack of appropriate segregation of duties of key officials involved in the JBDP has created a breakdown of the control environment, increased fiduciary and reputation risks, and led to irregular/inappropriate procurement and expenditure decisions," it said.

Without naming José Midas Marquez, the World Bank said "one official, due to the combination of his appointments and functions, was the inspector of the services, the approver of the terms of reference, the end user of the services provided by the firm, the authorizer of contract extensions, and the authorizer of payments to the firm."

"It had the management, among others, "presented [a] conflict of interest and dominated[] internal checks and balances applicable to the procurement and disbursement functions."

6 project components

The World Bank approved the loan in 2007 (Loan No. 7191-PH) "to assist the borrower in developing a more effective and accessible judiciary that would foster public trust and confidence through the implementation of the Supreme Court's Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR)."

The JBDP is the World Bank's term for its financial support for the APJR, the brainchild of then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who served as chairman of the PMO. The APJR conforms to be bankrolled by combined resources from the national budget, the judiciary's own funds and financing from development partners.

The loan project components involved improving case administration and access to justice (i.e., mobile courts); enhancing institutional capacity (i.e., Code of Ethics and enforced training of judges and judicial personnel); strengthening the institutional capacity of the judiciary (i.e., e-Library); and support for the reform of the judicial system and for the high court's PMO.

The judicial reforms covered six key areas: judicial system procedures, institutional development, human resources development, integrity infrastructure development, and support by the poor and reform support systems.

The World Bank has participated in all six areas, six other development partners have varying degrees of support to the APJR.

The loan is to expire on Dec. 31, 2009, during the incumbency of Chief Justice Reynato Puno. But the World Bank extended the closing date twice—first by 20 months (until June 30, 2011), and then by 12 months (until June 30, 2012).

But due to questions over the legality of some of the released funds and failing to lose expenditures, the World Bank canceled the final tranche of the loan amounting to $13 million.

Thus far, the tribunal has spent $14.4 million (75 percent of the project loan size out of $21.4 million, leaving behind $6.5 million. *With reports from Christine U. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza*

Power of 9 awes, inspires young global shapers

From page A4

around meeting in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos which brings together some of the world's top businessmen and political leaders, selected media heads and journalists to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world.

Exceptional people

Designed to gather exceptional people aged 20 to 30, YGS is the younger sibling of WEF's Young Global Leaders (YGL) program, which brings together "exceptional young leaders" to "act as their call "role-shapers committed to shaping the global future."

"If you think success, you'll never think of me, right? But I think it's good [because] it's more important to be focused on the right inspiring people," said Young Global Shaper Maria Consuelo Alvarez, the mayor of San Nicolas, a town in northwestern Palawan.

"You don't have to be a certain type to what's expected," said the Harvard-educated analyst, adding those people inevitably looked from her when told the San Nicolas mayor had arrived.

Beyond their age

Indeed, the town's crop of Philippine YGS representatives are young, energetic and driven, but beyond their age.

Alvarez aims to introduce sustainable projects in her scenic town of 30,000 that is "huge in land" but is poor in resources.

Aaina Sharada Opena, a University of the Philippines graduate, established the "Save Philippine Seas" movement to protect the country's marine biodiversity.

Adopting a school system in Little America, Eleanor Rose Ninaga found a responsive audio Kindergarten radio program to navigate the "digital divide in Tagaig City even before the Department of Education initiated its own basic education reforms.

Bianca Beatriz Santiago, 21, participated a social enterprise "to solve those who never," providing basic services for the homeless and the elderly in Quezon City.

Lou-ehelen Mildred Ogale, 25, expresses the youth in the country's indigenous cultures, to pursue local development projects, particularly focusing from yield through new agricultural technology.

Alexandra Edrajas, 25, has been working with Habitat for Humanity for seven years now and founded its youth council. Driven to see Filipino families taken time off from their business to work for child welfare.

And 30-year-old Jay Michael Arabelle, the mayor to help urban betterment of Zamboanga City schools children who had to cruise to go to school. Through social media, he raised funds to provide boats for the children's daily river crossing.

Show the world

Of the select group, only Opena, Ebrajas and Alvarez will be flying to Davos, Switzerland, next week to join the global forum.

"We can show how we can stand as a developing country, where we have so many inspiring young leaders," said Alvarez.

"Very often you see say that Philippines, other things work abroad, they say those houses of brilliant are. But you have young people like myself who can [work] and I think that can somehow be a reason why," she said.

Opena has been invited to speak at the opening plenary, a "must have-to-be role" and two opportunity for a young global shaper.

Opena plans to use her speech to "challenge the status quo" and "inspire the world like to bring across to her high-level audience.

"My driving point would be that the decisions that they make there will affect what we're going see in the future, the condition that we're living in, the opportunity that we have to [be] responsibility," Opena said.

The YGS blends hub is expected to meet regularly and journals, events, development programs in the country.

Connecting abroad

Broadcast journalist Kevin Ferrin, a 2010 WEF Young Global Leader, served as a founding curator for this year's YGS.

"I felt inspired be I feel this will give opportunity to talented Filipino role models," Ferrin said. "They'll have a global platform and that helps our country," she said.

"I really want WEF to appreciate, and feel friends, Philippines, now I want WEF to see that we have very talented people that can contribute to a global conversation ... and that they can take it back to the Philippines," Ferrin said.

'Hidden' Sto. Niño for 300 years to rise, begin public ministry

From page A1

Antonio Tayio were held years due to lack of bishop's Feast of the Sto. Niño, usually associated by the Augustinian parishes in other regions of the country.

Yesterday's festivities were part of a string of activities that the parish has prepared in the run-up to its sesquicentennial anniversary celebrations in November.

From 'Little Italy'

According to Mass, the panel occasion will bring to mind how Tondonians previously baptized in "Little Italy" for its many wholesales leading into the Pasig River—became a "Little Sinuvelt" as it contains old wooden image of the Holy Child that was found amidst debris of the war.

As the story is told, sometime in the 17th century a group of children playing in the shore banks suddenly spotted a magnificent image of the Sto. Niño wearing crystal crowns that "dazzled the vivid sun's rays."

In his book, "The Child of the Rainbow Pueyo: The Spiritual Journey of the Santo Niño de Pandacan Parish," Abaya quoted eyewitness Francisco Antonio by historian Ricardo Jalandoni.

"The children were startled and [then] stopped playing, then admiringly gazed at the small and beautiful image. In a moment, they all fell kneelled, and some knelt and prostrated since it seemed their mind that only the image of the Holy Child."

Plausible explanation

According to Abaya, there could only be one plausible explanation for how the image ended up there: it may have been part of the cargo carried by a ship plying the galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco, Mexico during the Spanish colonial period.

A storm that often domestic the Pacific Ocean may have sunk or destroyed the galleon, and the carousels may have swept the image into the Pasig River leading to one of its active tributaries—which is now the part of the parish of Sampaloc.

"The discovery of the little statue of Sto. Niño was only the start in the series of miraculous happenings," Abaya wrote.

Even the years, some elders of Sampaloc attempted to transfer the image to their parish church following the discovery. But strangely the image always found its way back, reappearing at the very area where it was discovered.

After the image's reappearance, residents began to revere the site, building a nipa hut to enshrine the miraculous image. The name hole fragmented by centuries was eventually turned into a well, where a natural spring flows to this day.

Eventually the Franciscans in 1620 and the twentieth hid a stone chapel built on the hallowed spot, also incorporating the well. This one finished in 1720 for the formal transfer of the parish of Pandacan in 1712, when the district was ecclesiastically separated from the Lorsa Church of Sampaloc.

Healing water

The original stone chapel was destroyed by powerful earthquakes in the 1880s. The succeeded structures and the well, which existed until the early years following World War II, had to be demolished because of the expansion of then-Dewey into a major road.

It was revived sometime between 1951 and 1975 when Msgr. Teodoro Manalaysay was the parish priest.

Though parishioners continue to believe that the well is a source of healing water, the parish has advised them not to drink it after the water tested positive for impurities.

To avoid further contamination, Abaya had a replica of the well constructed in the inner part of the church property near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, redirecting the flow of the water from the original spring.

The wooden image of the Sto. Niño remained enshrined in the stone chapel even after the church that took nearly 50 years to build was finished in 1768.

It was only transferred permanently to the church in 1908 when the church compound and the convent, taken over by pro-American priest of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (the Philippine Independent Church), once unceremoniously known as the Aglipayan Church) in 1902, were legally restituted by the Archdiocese of Manila.

Miracles

Aside from the miraculous healing among sick devotees and the preservation the Holy Child had allowed in Pandacan during the revolution, the Sto. Niño was also believed to have performed other wonders in the town.

When a massive fire wrack-ated Pandacan in 1911, a priest placed the image on a church window facing the site of flames. Suddenly, the wind changed its course, saving the town from what could have been a tragedy.

The image is also known to have averted an explosion after Japanese Imperial Army Lieutenant Fujita in the Rizal (Dadit) supposedly ignited oil tanks in Pandacan before returning to Bataan on Jan. 13, 1941. It also reportedly handled a boy named Dindi of a Chinese-owned bindisan in April 2002.

"Here] most often, the Sto. Niño comes to us as He is, a child in his son—unobtrusive, ordinary simple, hidden in the guise of a little boy," said Abaya.

He said residents often open early-hatred and dark-skinned boy, his plump face stained with dirt, scanning the streets of Pandacan—recalling the wooden image valued in rural when it was found among the pandan bushes in the area.

The boy who frequents the church patio, is seen mingling with people and talks to them as if he knows what was going on in their lives. "Because believe that this little child is their beloved patron, the Sto. Niño," said Abaya.

Aside from these stories, the Holy Child is also believed to have healed the 19-old 40 Infirm by Iglesia Filipina as the Superintendent (IFI) and Catholic parishioners alike.

Another icon exists

Unknown to many one of the defining issues between the two church communities was the existence of another icon of the Sto. Niño—an ivory image brought by the Franciscans and entrusted to the patron of the IFI church in Pandacan.

"Both community of believers, the Catholic and the Aglipayan, [were] vocal about their claim that their image of the Sto. Niño was the original," implying that the other image was a copy, Abaya wrote in his book, "The Child of the Rainbow."

Another source of contention between the two groups was the ivory images' "original issues," said Abaya.

The hostility between the two churches "reached its zenith", when both agreed to jointly construct, for the first time, in the colorful Fiesta-Bulong Festival and grand procession held yearly in the eve of the Feast of the Sto. Niño.

"Before that [meeting point], we are unable to see their true respect, the parades didn't run into each other or else there will be a commotion ... until one organizers of the two churches hitting each other with their canes," Abaya recalled with a chuckle.

Two icons reunited

But following the reconciliation, the Bulong-Bulong Festival has always been an unparalleled event among devotees, wherein the two images are paraded on the two arms of the Sto. Niño Shrine, two brothers reunited after being estranged for centuries by war and religion, said the priest.

Happy about the reunion, the small district has been shaken with stories about the fight of two children—one dark and the other fair—playing in the neighborhood in the early evening, noted Abaya in his book.

"When twilight gave way to the night, the two young boys disappear into the dark ... beautiful scenes that the two children are the inner images of the Sto. Niño enshrined in the IFI church and the dark image in the church of the Santo Cristo church perhaps referring their longing to pass and worship as children, Protestant and Aglipayans, of the same God," he wrote.

COA questions presidential fund disbursements

By Leila B. Salaverria

OVER P1.2 billion from the President's Social Fund (PSF) was transferred to various nongovernment organizations and government agencies in 2010 and irregularly recorded as donations, thus making it difficult to establish accountability for the money, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

The COA, in its 2010 report on the Office of the President (OP) that was released over the weekend, noted that of the P1.268 billion, some P501 million was transferred to several nongovernment organizations (NGOs) without disbursement vouchers and supporting documents.

The P501 million was given out in the first half of 2010, when the Arroyo administration was in office. The recipients included the DIWC Foundation which received money for various socio-civic projects in Barangay 668, Binondo, and the Rizal Network for Community Organizing and Livelihood which received financial assistance for various economic projects.

The other recipients of the P501 million were the Liberation-Palestinian Human Federation, Gaming Tama Movement Inc., Philippine Rainbow Foundation, Lopez Chemical Ferrous Manila Peralatan Asosiasi, Inc. and the Ilocos Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

'09 donations also questioned

The Aquino administration took over in the second half of 2010.

The COA had also questioned in 2009 the practice of recording as donations funds transferred from the PSF to government agencies and NGOs.

The audit agency said this was contrary to two COA circulars that prescribed rules and regulations to ensure that money transferred to implementing agencies was properly used and accounted for, and to guarantee transparency and accountability in the use of funds given to NGOs.

In its latest report, the COA said that P1.268 billion from the PSF was transferred to NGOs and government offices in 2010 and then were recorded as donations. A total of P1.226 billion was sourced from the OP for that year, but P68.291 million went to financial assistance

Not a well and that the reimbursement of the reports of disbursement and checks issued "hinders the oversight function, duties and responsibilities of the auditor of the [source agency] and [implementing agency]."

need a job?

Last of Pinay Gadhafi family maids is home

By Tina G. Santos

BAGUIO Pauandalan would have wanted to remain longer to settle sure Libya and continue serving the family of the late Libyan dictator Moammar Ghadafi.

"But the security situation there has not totally stabilized," said the 32-year-old Pauandalan, the last of four Filipina maids of Ghadafi's family to be repatriated to the Philippines.

"Otherwise, I would have chosen to stay there. Libya is such a beautiful country and my employers treated me well," she told the Inquirer. She said those were the times it took her a long time to decide to come home.

Pauandalan arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport via Qatar Airways on Saturday afternoon.

Unlike two other Filipina maids who claimed that Ghadafi's sons refused to pay them their wages, Pauandalan said her employer gave her her entire salary when she told them she was leaving.

She said she earned $500 a month and she described her employers as "very rich." "Their house was like a palace," she added.

A native of Pahoman, Maguindanao, Pauandalan arrived in Sabha, Libya, in 2009 to work as a maid for the family of Zawadi Ahmad Ibrahim, a relative of Ghadafi.

She said she initially didn't know that her employer was a relative of the Libyan leader.

"I only learned that they were related when Ghadafi died. The authorities were also watching after my boss. That's why he sent me home by escort," Pauandalan said, adding that she was left behind in Libya to take care of Ibrahim's mother.

Unbearable, chaotic

It was only Dec. 15 last year that when she decided to leave Libya because the tension and hostilities had become unbearable.

"The place was so chaotic. I would hear explosions in the next house. And it was really frightening," she narrated, adding that she sought refuge at the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli after she left her employers' house.

Pauandalan said she was happy that unlike other overseas Filipino workers, she did not have to escape from her employers.

"They did not prevent me from leaving. I even bade Zawadi goodbye through the telephone since he was already in Libya when I left," she said. "He said I could always go back once the situation stabilized."

But Pauandalan said she's now having second thoughts about working abroad again.

"Right now I just want to have peace of mind. I want to take a long vacation and spend time with my family, especially my mother whom I have not seen since 2005. I haven't died's sick, so I really want to see her," Pauandalan, the fourth of five siblings, said.

She added that her family didn't know she was nursing home.

"I wanted to surprise them."

REMOVE 'MIDNIGHT' APPOINTEE

Renato Corona sits as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the basis of a dubious appointment. The 1987 Constitution is very clear: "Two months immediately before the next presidential elections and up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except temporary appointments to executive positions when continued vacancies therein will prejudice public service or endanger public safety."

Corona was appointed Chief Justice by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo within the period stipulated in the Constitution.

Corona therefore sits as Chief Justice on the basis of a "midnight" appointment explicitly banned by the 1987 Constitution.

By accepting this "midnight" appointment, Corona knowingly and wilfully violated the country's fundamental law and continues to illegally occupy the position.

In his recent commentary, "Louis XIV syndrome," opinion-maker Juan L. Mercado exposed Corona's delusion when he wrote:

"Corona sallies forth as a dragon slayer, but his armor has two gaps. One, he is a midnight appointee. And second, the majority of Filipinos don't see him as a justice in the mold of a Jose Abad Santos, Cecilia Muñoz-Palma or Roberto Concepcion. Before stepping down, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued midnight appointments to a Malacañang gardener, a personal manicurist and the Chief Justice, among other people."

Corona's track record as Associate Justice and Chief Justice has been marked not by "cold neutrality" and strict adherence to due process and respect for the Constitution, but by partiality and bias for his benefactor and patron, Mrs. Arroyo, whose nine-year misrule was characterized by plunder, electoral fraud, and human rights violations.

And with Corona's integrity now under a heavy cloud of doubt with allegations that he has amassed ill-gotten wealth, he should not be allowed to continue at the helm of the Court of Last Resort.

"Midnight" appointee Renato Corona should be removed by the Senate to restore the credibility of the highest tribunal and strengthen the capability of the entire Judiciary to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S GOOD! FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION! REMOVE CORONA!

REMOVE ARROYO'S GATEKEEPER!

Impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona should not stay a minute longer at the Supreme Court.

Not only has Corona shown utter bias and lack of judicial independence as former President Gloria Arroyo's "gatekeeper" to ensure total control of the Supreme Court, he has also subverted the very justice system he has sworn to uphold.

A recent commentary by columnist Neal Cruz shows clearly how the Chief Justice "falsely made it appear that Arroyo 'substantially' complied with the conditions" of the temporary restraining order that would have allowed her to leave for purported medical treatment abroad and thus, escape prosecution for the plunder, electoral sabotage and graft and corruption charges she is facing.

Citing the dissenting opinions of Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Maria Lourdes Sereno on the Nov. 29, 2011 resolution of the Court, Cruz wrote:

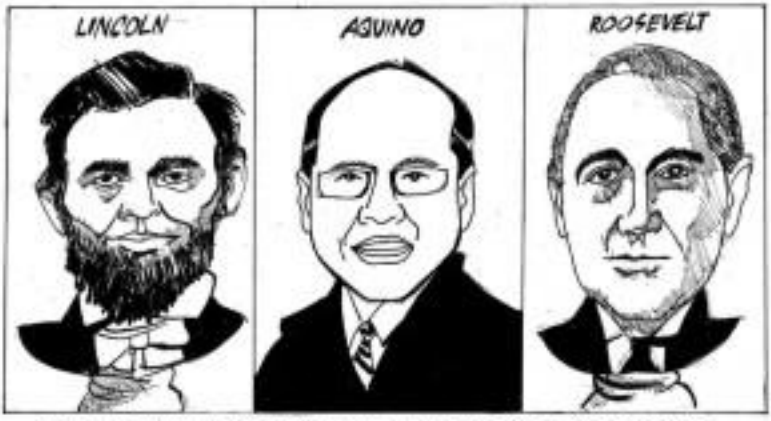
"That resolution, by a vote of 7-6, upheld the effectivity of the TRO issued in favor of Arroyo despite her non-compliance with the conditions—set by the Court itself in its Nov. 15, 2011 resolution—just so the TRO would become enforceable. The dissents reveal explosive facts: the TRO specially favored Arroyo and Corona's bias and partiality towards her."

Cruz concluded with these words: **"The judiciary has long lost its independence, not to the present administration but to former President Arroyo when she packed it with people beholden to her. The impeachment process is not an assault on the independence of the judiciary but, precisely, the first step in releasing it from its bondage to Arroyo.**

"The Court is a hostage(d) institution, it must be freed and reclaimed by the people. The first step in this rescue is to remove its gatekeeper, Corona, who was appointed just as the Arroyo administration was ending."

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S GOOD! SAVE THE SUPREME COURT! REMOVE CORONA!

RECLAIM THE JUDICIARY FOR THE PEOPLE!



GREAT LEADERS FIGHT THE GOOD BATTLE FOR THE PEOPLE

President Benigno Aquino III displayed resolute political will in taking to task a Supreme Court packed with the loyal and subservient appointees of former President Gloria Arroyo, led by impeached "midnight" Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Here, P-Noy took a leaf from past US Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Lincoln openly clashed with the Chief Justice before overturning with his historic Emancipation Act of 1863 the pro-slavery decision of the US Supreme Court on a case that sparked in part the bloody US Civil War.

Roosevelt, for his part, sought to increase the number of justices in the US Supreme Court. He argued that the court should be reformed as it could not handle its caseload, thereby impeding instead of ensuring the dispensation of justice.

Wrote former UP College of Law Dean Raul C. Pangalangan in pointing out the *similarities among P-Noy, Lincoln and Roosevelt, and why President Aquino should continue his showdown with the Corona-led Supreme Court in the name of justice, freedom and what is right:*

"'We have, therefore, reached the point as a nation where we must take action to save the Constitution from the Court and the Court from itself. .... We want a Supreme Court which will do justice under the Constitution and not over it.' These words were uttered not by President Aquino in 2011, but by US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) in a fireside radio broadcast in 1937."

Clearly, P-Noy must draw inspiration from the former US president in moving against the dogged determination of the Arroyo appointees to cling to power, and in appointing in their place justices who have the moral ascendancy and honor to serve the public.

Pangalangan stressed that "this is the best time" to reform the judiciary with "Noynoy riding the crest of popularity for his anti-corruption campaign," adding that "Erap took to rhetoric, called them 'hoodlums in robes' but didn't stay long enough to disrobe them."

The law professor wrote further:
"Presidents have an equal duty to develop our constitutional traditions. Abraham Lincoln defied the US court's ruling in the infamous Dred Scott case that upheld slavery and how! He emancipated the slaves and fought a civil war. The uncivility between our political and judicial branches is no great shakes by that standard, but I sure hope it would yield as liberating a legacy."

"The real lesson here is that: 'We the People own this Constitution. The courts do not hold a monopoly over the power to divine its meanings.'"

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S GOOD! FIGHT AGAINST EVIL!
REMOVE CORONA!

Hundreds flee flooding in Southern Mindanao

IGANO CITY—Hundreds of people were evacuated in two Northern Mindanao provinces as floods struck several towns following heavy rains, authorities said.

Several towns in Bukidnon and Compostela Valley were under water, forcing villagers to flee their homes.

Maj. Jacob Rikkapat, civil military officer of the 10th Infantry Division, said as of 7 a.m. yesterday villages in the mountainous areas of Lurk, Asuncion, New Leyte and Kapalong, all in Davao Del Norte, were under water.

In some areas, he said water was as deep as three feet, rendering several roads impassable, but no casualties were immediately reported.

Power also failed to cut off in Lurk and Asuncion towns, Obispado said.

The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Southern Mindanao said severe flooding also swept through several areas of Compostela Valley on Saturday.

Gloja Salazar, a staffer at the OCD, quoted reports that the OCD received in saying that at least 106 families had fled their homes due to the floods.

Corey Hebales, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration in Southern Mindanao, said there was no storm because and that the rains were brought by what he described as wind convergence.

Pedero said the rains started Friday morning and had progressed through Saturday. The heavy rains may continue in the next few days, he said.

Last month, heavy rains spawned by Tropical Storm "Seniang" also flooded towns in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte.

Nearly 3,000 people had to be evacuated when floodwaters submerged lowland villages and those near major tributaries. Gerry Baldo Lanuevo and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Cagayan travel woes to end by March, says tollway exec

PUBLIC utility and private vehicles wind their way through a stretch of Marcos Highway that was all but destroyed by a road repair project undertaken but then suddenly suspended for repair but was torn just the same for corrupt officials and contractors to make a messy use of

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—The horrid woes being suffered by motorists and tourist buses negotiate driving around Cagayan Valley should end in March when the North Luzon Expressway's (NLEX) Plaridel bypass road project is completed.

Rodolfo Peñaco, president and chief executive officer of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), made the announcement on Thursday, saying the completion of the 8.8-kilometer road would be their first major accomplishment for 2015.

Motorists from Nueva Ecija and Cagayan Valley use the relatively narrow Cagayan Valley Road to exit through Bulacan.

The bypass road starts from the Bued-Balagtas town clumps, stretches through the towns of Plaridel and Buntog and ends at the Cagayan Valley Road.

Peñaco said the bypass road is Phase 1 of a three-contract package for the construction of a 28-km. road that provides commuters access to SCTEx from Balagtas to San Rafael town. The project began on Jan. 20, 2009.

The bypass road, as well as the project's Phase 2 (connecting Plaridel-Buntog-Angat section), is funded by a P1.7 billion loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, said Ibid, Jose Ochoa, the project engineer deployed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to oversee the project. Its said Phase 2 would be completed in February 2015.

Machine Ochoa, MNTC vice president for corporate communications, said the bypass road would reduce travel time by 20 minutes.

The DPWH has come under fire for delays in road projects that many motorists blame for their woes in the road.

In many cases, good roads are being torn by no apparent reason other than for public works officials and contractors to make money out of new projects, according to critics of the DPWH. Carmela Reyes-Burrope, Inquirer General Luzon

In entire PH, only 1 weigh bridge built to track overloading

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, La...The Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) operates just one weighing bridge in Central Luzon, about 12 years after Congress approved Republic Act No. 8794 (Road Weight Act), which called to enforce loading provisions, according to reports published by the location.

The DPWH's lone weighing bridge in the region stands along the Calumpang City segment of the Daang Maharlika in Nueva Ecija.

The single structure was built for weighing trailer that the agency has but use for one in Capas, Tarlac, and in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

The DPWH's logistical confirmation suggests that 473 kilometers of bridges and 2,274 km of national roads in the region's seven provinces are supposed to from overloaded vehicles.

No data were immediately made available by the Land Transportation Office regarding the number of violators that were issued tickets for overloading.

Signed in June 2000, RA 8794 imposed a motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) on owners of all types of motor vehicles. Section 6 of the law also sets a fine equivalent to 25 percent of the MVUC as penalty for overloading. This is determined when the axle load of the vehicle weighs by more than 10,000 kilos.

The law instructed the DPWH and the then "solely and (to be) construction heavily licensed maintenance and the (improvement) of the road drainage, for the installation of adequate and efficient traffic lights and road safety devices, and for its public information campaign."

DPWH had said that "carrying violation of the Load-ing, and law Roads to) P20 billion worth of damage to the road networks yearly."

The Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) allows a given vehicle weight rating of 10,000 kg for a six-wheel truck and 40,000 kg for a 22-wheel truck on the North Luzon Expressway.

The Pampanga government starts enforcing the motorcycle loading provisions on weight loading and effective today.

The provincial government would be using six pairs of digital and portable weighing scales it bought for P5.1 million in early 2015. Dimmie Dupaz, Inquirer Central Luzon

Filling materials for resort cranks tension up in CamSur village

By Jean Enriquez Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CONFRONTATION in Bagtas, Camarines Sur, over a truckload of filling materials said to be for a resort owned by a politician has thrust the village officials and those for a village project

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur—The attempt to collect quarry fees for a load of filling materials said to be intended for a resort owned by the family of a congressman here has turned the small town into a battlefield after three policemen and a resident and some police dropping the name of one of the highest ranking members of President Aquino's Cabinet.

On Jan. 2, a member of the provincial Sagip Kalikasan Task Force (SKTF) stopped a white Isuzu D-Max truck with license plate RJV 183 that was carrying filling materials and was bound for Pamplona, a village where the family of Deputy Speaker Rolando Fortuno Jr. was alleged to have a beachfront resort.

The SKTF member, Eli Boy-con Jr., says personnel, however, it, from impounding the truck and its load for not paying quarry fees.

Jesus-utter, the chief of Bagtas-par Pamplona, Estela Orbeta-Baton, was on the scene assuming that the truck driver, who was unidentified, he hope in her custody.

Members of the provincial police's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team also descended on the area. In did a total load of soldiers.

Colleagues of Boycon at SKTF also came, but when they arrived, the head of the SWAT team, Insp. Chester Pontar and police couldn't let the SKTF members impound the truck on orders from former Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Pontar, some 40 kilometers from Naga City, hogged headlines last year in this is the place where a controversial resort owned by Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella has been built. Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte filed a plunder case against Fuentebella for alleged illegal using public funds to build a road leading to the resort but the village's officials have ruled such Fuentebella in his dispute with the province.

According to Boycon in an affidavit, the truck driver told him the filling materials were for a covered court in Pamplona but couldn't present a quarry permit.

Boycon said he asked the driver to follow him to the SKTF office so that he could issue a release receipt and pay the corresponding penalty.

However, the truck driver instead drove to the house of village chief Baron. Baton came out and angrily told Boycon she said he'd be driver out.

Boycon said policemen from Pasig, Asian soldiers, a PNP team from the provincial police office, former Naga mayor Roberto Brioso, municipal administrator Marlon Jun Felipe and Vice Mayor Rachel Chavez all came to support Baton.

Boycon said he and other SKTF members found out later that there was no order from the lands and to turn over the truck.

Boycon said the truck is owned by a resident, Elmer Compuesto, who allowed Orbeta-par to help the barangay council collect funds for repairing the road. Bond of the road to be used to level the village's covered court.

He also admitted she called up Salvador who, she claimed, told her not to give in to Boycon. But Boycon said he was not operating for Fortuno or the mayor.

Boycon, however, quoted the driver in his affidavit as saying the truck was hired by Bacolor Construction, a firm reportedly owned by the family of Fuentebella.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ CEBU CITY

Sto. Niño feast

THOUSANDS of devotees dotted the base of the Sefior Sto. Niño de Cebu with a view for Basal parade at the Marine Division.

Dozens of floats, images and canine ships, packed with devotees, headed the 8:00 Juan de Sto de Cebu carrying an image of the Holy Child Jesus that was blessed by Blessed John Paul II.

Also in the main vessel was an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of Cebu. They is a mission dated about 7 a.m. from the Quiapo Wharf in Mandaue City and ended 8 a.m. at Pier 1 in the city port.

Thousands more watched the procession from the piers or from ships in the docks. They waved and thronked hands or salute as the image of the Santo Niño passed them by. Some set off firecrackers. There were also endless worshippers on the sidewalks placing homage to the Sto. Niño.

The vessel with images of the Sto Niño and Virgin Mary was escorted by the clergy and several men dressed as Spanish sailors. A foot procession started upon the arrival of the two images at the Cebu port area.

It proceeded to the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño for the Mass that featured a reenactment of the first Mass and baptism in Cebu in 1521. On that occasion, the virgin images of the Sto. Niño and Virgin Mary were given by Ferdinand Magellan and Augustinian missionaries to Cebu's King Humabon and Queen Humabay, who were christened Tuna and Juana.

Jason Espina, Inquirer Visayas

■ ISABELA

4 drown in river

FOUR members of a family remaining drowned on Friday at the Cagayan River in Sto. Ana, Isabela when their vehicle fell into the river. Police identified the after burying their grandfather in Barangay San Isidro town.

The bodies of the Alipio siblings Rhichard, 28; Rachel, 22; Ignacio, 18; and Richard, 13 were recovered in Emilia, Enrique, on Saturday morning.

The victims were reported by buddies to take a bath in the crowed river after the funeral, but they apparently dove buried a deep section of the river and were swept away by the strong current, according to Chief Insp. Jacinto Taddeo, Emilia police chief.

Ellaine Vargas Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

2 women slain

TWO WOMEN working in entertainment bars in Isabela were killed in separate news in Pasay City and Quezon Province early last week, police said.

On Saturday, March 7 Mercado, 25, was found dead under the bushes to Sindalan Village in Santa Mercedes town. Villarosa, who worked as a beer joint in Cauayan City had sustained to the chest.

Police said Villarosa left the bar on Friday night accompanied by a male identified only as Reed. In Buenos town, police arrested Reed Paulino, 28, an entertainer working at the Rose Hotel in Barangay Burgos.

Police said Paulino's neighbors at the Barangay Bagallon Proper heard shouts and Pulyanay fighting on Friday night. By the Tuesday, police said neighbors heard gunshots from Paulino's house. They later discovered Pulyanay's body in a bushy area near the suspect's house.

Ellaine Vargas Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

A page from Malaysia

THE VERDICT was as surprising as it was welcome. On Jan. 9, 2012, leading Malaysian opposition figure Anwar Ibrahim was exonerated of sodomy charges—charges that were generally considered politically motivated. With the acquittal, Anwar has finally risen from the attacks initiated by former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. The irony is, Anwar was originally Mahathir's deputy and for closest ally.

EDITORIAL

Anwar has been among Malaysia's brightest sons. A fiery student leader, he was both popular and influential, and was promoted quickly through several government positions once he joined the United Malays National Organization, or Umno, Mahathir's ruling party. He was named Mahathir's deputy prime minister in 1993. Everything pointed to Anwar being publicly groomed as Mahathir's protégé, his successor in both a personal and political capacity.

But things fell quickly apart when Anwar and Mahathir clashed regarding Malaysia's financial future and the steps government was taking to protect its ethnic Malay voters, a move that Mahathir had pursued and which Anwar identified as being overly protectionist. A schism resulted upon between the two former allies, one that would rip open and prove irreversible.

In what was seen as the first of several brazen attempts to discredit and sideline Anwar politically, he was removed from office and in 1998 was charged with sodomy and corruption, even as he publicly declared his innocence and decried the charges as political harassment.

The timing could not have been worse. For years, Mahathir had been politicizing the country's judicial system. To the surprise of no one and the outrage of many, Anwar was found guilty of corruption in 1999 and sentenced to six years in prison. He was then found guilty of sodomy in 2000, adding nine years to his prison sentence.

But world opinion was skeptical of the judicial findings. An unconvinced Anwar was soon widely viewed as a political detainee who had the support of several world leaders, including those from the United States and Canada. Umno was slipping from power, and Mahathir left office in 2003, and his grip on the country, particularly its judicial system, began to soften.

This was quite obvious when Anwar's corruption conviction was overturned by the Federal Court, Malaysia's version of the Supreme Court, in 2004. After serving out the remaining years of his corruption conviction with time off for good behavior, Anwar was finally released from prison but was still unable to participate in the country's politics due to a five-year ban that came with his corruption case.

Anwar returned to lead the opposition movement Pakatan Rakjyat to a popular resurgence in the general election of 2008. To cap his political resurrection, Anwar ran for office in his home territory of Penang after his wife, Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, stepped down from office to allow Anwar to contest the position.

But dirty politics was not quite done with Anwar just yet. That same year, a new set of sodomy charges were leveled against Anwar to what was again widely perceived as an attempt to remove him from power and public prominence. The charges couldn't stop Anwar as he was elected a member of parliament in a massive landslide victory later that year. Anwar's political return was now almost complete.

Last Jan. 9, that comeback was made complete when Justice Mohamad Zaidda Mohd Ilish of the Kuala Lumpur High Court, after reviewing the DNA evidence, acquitted Anwar of the new sodomy charges. Talking to reporters after the emotional day in court, Anwar echoed the nation's sentiment when he said: "Thank God justice has prevailed. I have been vindicated. To be honest I am a little surprised."

He was surprised that a judicial system long held down by the reins of executive power had seemingly shaken off those shackles and found fair, allowing him to now prepare for possible future general elections. This is what was possible with a newly credible judiciary, one which can hold its own against the agendas of others.

The cartoon cast of Anwar Ibrahim gives the Filipinos, fellow Malays, hope as well—hope that this will serve as a concrete evidence that despite a checkered past and political pressure brought upon it by all sides, a truly independent judicial system can deliver fair verdicts, untouched by vengeance or scheming. It is proof that justice—the right of all peoples in the world—always prevails in the end.

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Impeachment: Can it do any good?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MANY REASONABLE people who are not explicitly for Chief Justice Renato Corona have asserted that impeaching a member of the high court, let alone its chief, could undermine the judicial branch of government. If this happens, they say, the rule of law would be weakened. Tyranny would reign. Judges would become timid, leaving no one to restore or check the conduct of public men.

These fears are not unfounded. We have the record of mortal law to show that such things can happen. But, we are far from being under martial law, whether declared or undeclared. Those who say we are, either do not know or have forgotten what it was like to be arrested without a warrant or detained without charges, or to disappear without a trace, live in someone fear, or forced to go underground or flee to another country for merely criticizing the government.

If the impeachment process is conducted in a fair and transparent way, the institutional gains could be immense. The boundary between law and politics would be sharpened, and the judiciary could come out of this costly entanglement. Politicians, from the presidency and members of Congress down to the mayor of the smallest town, would be finally reminded that it is not their business to interfere in the functions of the judiciary. Judges from the highest to the lowest court, on the other hand, would be strongly warned about accepting political debts in exchange for appointments, or getting embroiled in politics.

If we examine the history of impeachment in England where it originated, and in the United States from where we copied the concept, we would find that impeachment trials were extraordinary episodes in the life of governments aspiring to democracy. They were crucial points in the transition to modern society. Structural features like separation of powers and checks and balances in government slowly evolved as subversions of a modern society, rather than the self-exercising constitutional mandates they are today thought to be.

Because ours is a relatively young political system, bound to precedents and practices borrowed from more mature societies, we have little choice but to resort to the experience of other societies for guidance on how to conduct them and what to expect of them. At the same time, because our social conditions are different, we are closely forging our own practices.

One of the ideas we have adopted from abroad is that impeachments is a political process. This has caused some confusion. Some think this means that a case may be decided along purely partisan lines. Others believe that while the power to impeach belongs to a political branch of government, its exercise must nonetheless observe certain legal requirements. These two views do not necessarily contradict one another. The norm has been: the impeachment court must avoid being perceived as narrowly partisan, while allowing greater flexibility in its proceedings than one would expect in an ordinary court.

In what sense is impeachment political? I think it is "political" in at least three senses: (1) Impeachable offenses like "betrayal of public trust" are treated as political crimes which may or may not be punishable as criminal offenses. (2) The object of impeachment is the removal of a public official from office; and (3) The judgment is rendered by a political branch of government, whose ultimate task is to decide whether the removal of the impeached official is good for the nation or not.

I believe most of the confusion arises from the **notion that a public official may be impeached** only for criminally indictable offenses like stealing, tax-paying cases, or taking a bribe. By this standard, were like prosecuting for a party in a case, or shooting someone him or her as individual, to whom one is politically indebted, or enacted, ing one's authority would not qualify as valid grounds for impeachment. Yet a secretary of such, because impeachment cases that have been wrapped in the United States and England would acted in the open ended meaning of phrases like "betrayal of public trust" and "other high crimes."

It is obvious that the prosecution from the House of Representatives are themselves hard pressed to pin down Corona for just the many fleeting partiality in his decisions but, more importantly, for unexplained wealth and graft and corruption. This would explain the reluctance to focus on Corona's properties. They know that in the public mind only criminal offenses like unclear enrichment of oneself while in public office would justify removing a chief justice from his position.

Fortunately for the prosecution, in a country like ours where the rich and powerful are seen to take shortcuts with the law, it is not so difficult for someone who is determined to dig deep to come up with evidence for an indictable criminal offense.

But let us not forget that what triggered the impeachment was something profoundly political, a valid reason that needs no embellishment. Corona's outgoing but by in his choosing, away all discretion, all deliberation, all sense of honor, when he accepted the midnight appointment offered to him by a discredited outgoing president. This is scandalous enough for anyone appointed under these circumstances to stay other positions to prove neutral. The task remained damaged is irremovable when the position is that of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a branch of government whose stable functioning depends almost wholly on its credibility as an impartial interpreter of the law.

public.lives@gmail.com

For adults also

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

TEACHERS is told about a little boy who had the bad habit of sucking his thumb. One day his mother pointed to a very short man and told the boy that the man had such a big stomach because he sucked his thumb. And then, the boy saw a pregnant woman. He walked up to her and said with a smile: "You don't know this, but I know what you've been doing!"

* * *

Today is the Feast of the Sto. Niño, in honor of the Child Jesus. In today's gospel (Mk. 10, 13-16) Jesus reminds us of the great love of the little ones, "for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." He also tells us to **welcome, respect and love them.**

* * *

As adults, we can cause the children to come to Jesus, or we can prevent or discourage them from doing so, by our words and examples. Just we told the little ones toward God's light and life. We ask ourselves today: Am I a stepping stone or a stumbling block in the growth of children?

* * *

If only adults would take into consideration the welfare and the future of the children, perhaps our world have a better world. The problem with many adults is that they have never outgrown their childhood insecurities and selfishness, and they still treat people as commodities or toys.

* * *

I wonder how our national thieves and plunderers they see their children who long and scavenge for food, or who labor and toil at an early age? Do they feel anything at all!

* * *

Those should be a cause for children in print, radio and television whose they can express their views, comments and suggestions. How about a child exhausted in the jeepneys, for instance? Jesus has shown us the example of welcoming and respecting the children. We'll be amazed at how much child-

dren know and perceive life and current events deeply. So, let us listen, and let us learn from the children—the innocent, helpless little ones.

* * *

The Yellow Boat Project is the story of an adult who heard and finally decided the needs of children from the village of Lapag-Lapag in Antipolo City. The children had to swim two kilometers and walk another five kilometers just to go to school. Jay Jalosena and social media through his Facebook account to raise funds to build a boat for the children to use, so that they would not have to swim across murky waters, carrying their bags on their heads. Generous people started supporting the project, and now the children come to school dry and fresh looking. The love of many children have improved because of one adult who really listened and acted. (For more update, go to http://yellowboat.tumblr.com)

* * *

The Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) arrived in the Philippines a hundred years ago. On Oct. 2, 1912, four sisters from Steyler—Sr. Cyrilla Stollermayr, Sr. Hermenegilda Schultz-Ladbrell, Sr. Delia Heuvari and Sr. Corbiana Barbier—arrived in Manila on board the SS Persia. They joined their SVD (Society of the Divine Word) brothers who came to the Philippines two years earlier. From the very start, their whole mission was the education of children, and soon the Holy Ghost School in Tayuin, Ab's was founded. The mission grew, and "Holy Ghost Schools" started sprouting all over the Philippines. The most prominent of which is the College of the Holy Spirit. We remember, rejoice and rededicate to God's providence. Let us together with our SSpS/AP (Irish Sisters) for 100 years of missionary presence in the Philippines.

* * *

Our present SSS superior general, Fr Antonio Ireno, SVD, is himself a "product" of the SSpS educational system in the Philippines. He had his elementary education at Holy Spirit School in Tagbilaran City in Bohol, Visayas. But the quality education he received from the school, Father Ireno acknowledges that he partly owes his vocation to the religious ministers he met in those tender years. Some actions as persons filled with the Spirit of God, radiating the joy of being religious and missionaries, disciples of Jesus caught up with the vision of the Master."

* * *

On a personal note, one significant and unforgettable person in my life was Sr. Ignacia Sedhoki, SspS, who was assigned to Christ the King Seminary when we were first year in high school. She was really like a mother to us. She was such a joyful, humble and committed person. And diligent! She taught us to be orderly and clean and to practice good manners and right conduct. Here was one adult who left her indelible "footprints" on us growing boys.

* * *

We must never underestimate the tremendous effect we have on children, loving and this, we too must never underestimate the tremendous capabilities and possibilities of children. The children believe in us. Let us also believe in them.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that humility, trust, simplicity and joy are not for children only, but for adults also. Amen.

Due process in impeachment

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio T. Carpio

I will restrict myself, without any prior notice and hearing, 100 members of the House of Representatives filed a verified complaint for the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato C. Corona. I thought that due process required notice and hearing before an impeachment charge could be filed in the Senate. So, I hastened to extend the courtesy call on the complainants.

Two ways to impeach, firstly, the Charter provides two ways of starting an impeachment. First, a verified complaint may be filed by the House by a congressman, or by any citizen accompanied by a resolution of endorsement by a congressman. The House then refers this verified complaint to its Committee on Justice that, in turn, is tasked to determine the complaint's sufficiency in form and substance.

After hearing the parties and by majority vote of all its members, the committee may recommend to the entire House the dismissal of the complaint for the insufficiency of the grounds for impeachment, and may by the same vote recommend to the House that the complaint is sufficient in form and substance and should be impeached. However, under the second method, no hearing is required and no voting is actually taken. The Committee may also find that a verified impeachment complaint is "filed" (report, "filed"), he or she may direct the Committee Secretary, head of the Senate shall forthwith proceed."

Under the first method, the respondent is heard first before a vote in the committee is taken. However, under the second method, no hearing is required and no voting is actually taken. The Committee may also find that a verified impeachment complaint is "filed" (report, "filed"), he or she may direct the Committee Secretary, head of the Senate shall forthwith proceed."

Bill of Rights. Apart from the provisions specifically governing impeachment, the Constitution has a bill of Rights containing a general provision that due process that is deemed by jurisprudence to be automatically written into every law, rule or contract, for no good it embraces "So process shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

Now, the due process clause protects those basic rights: "life, liberty or property." Obviously, a public office is not "life" or "liberty," but does it constitute "property"? Most pointedly, is a public office the "property" of a public official?

Anti-politician sentiment with an emphatic "No." But one has a vested right in a Toyota title to a public office. If a statute or by-law empowers its revocation by the state to an individual to be state need or need for the benefit of the people. That is why the Constitution says that a "public office is a public trust." Ergo, the due process clause in the Bill of Rights does not cover the removal from office of impeached public officials.

Traditional due process. However, due process is somewhat different from the Constitution. It is deeply ingrained in democracy, it is rooted in history and in the people's inherent sense of justice and fair play. "Indisputable principles that is in-built," "in fact, but how we live." Justice Holmes enunciated it as a law "which must follow a customary, proceedings require and render judgment only after trial."

Accordingly, the Senate, which has the "sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment," adopts the customary rules of due process. The Senate Rules gives ample opportunity for the impeached officials to be notified and heard, and to defend themselves before judgments are rendered against them. In contrast, the House does not render judgment. It merely files and prosecutes impeachment charges.

To sum up, the due process requirements of notice and hearing are observed by the House in the first stage of starting an impeachment and by the Senate in the trial and decision phase. Of this, there is no dispute.

However, when over one-third of the members of the House are unilaterally convinced of an official's culpability, notice and hearing are no longer required by the Constitution. The framers probably thought it a really pointless to go through the agonizing process and hearing. To do so may put committee members in a position of bias and unfairness. Worse, the time of both the respondent and the House, which has other vital lawmaking duties to perform. After all, to impeach merely means to charge or bring suit, not to convict and impose sanctions.

Finally, the penalty or sanction in an impeachment is limited only to removal from office and possible disqualification to hold public office in the future. The proceedings are not criminal in nature so that the penalty or deprivation of liberty (imprisonment) or property (fine). But the respondent may be prosecuted criminally later. So, the Constitution allows the exparte filing of the impeachment complaint and the exparte filing of bail, to avoid delays in the delivery of justice and to prevent a pretense, a mere mockery of due impeachment.

As I wrote last Sunday, impeachment is not personal, it is function of work, it is not the equivalent of a judicial proceedings to abide the "the liberty or property" of the suspect or defendant is at risk.

* * *

Good news. Stephen Pearson," the grand musical epic composed by Maestro Ryan Cayabyab with lyrics by Jed Aquino, will be telecast in full on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 11 p.m. on GMA News TV (Channel 11) (Channel 23 on the Cable, Channel 11 in Cignal and Channel 5 in Destiny). Don't Watch it, Enjoy it.

* * *

Comments to: abcarpio.inquirer@hotmail.com

Salvation

IT HELPED long before Christ. The man, in a white robe, on the raised platform of a grandstand in the center of a crowd of thousands. Jump, and the man, jumps? was believe. Raise your hands, said the man, wave those white handkerchiefs. Higher, the Lord cannot see. Look to the heavens, look to the heavens, do you see God?

The amused confusion in waves. Yes, says the crowd, the hand-kerchief-waving crowd, chanting crowd. Yes.

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

Raise your hands, my brothers, raise your hands if you want to triumph over poverty. The voice punches across the night. Do you want success in life? Do you want success in your work? Do you want success in business? Do you want to find work instead? Do you want to be healed of your illness right? Do you want freedom from sin? Do you want freedom from fear now? Do you want freedom from all that burdens you? Be you need direction in life?

The man in white storms across the stage. The voice becomes a roar.

Do you want to be spared from danger? Do you want to be changed now? Raise your hands, brothers, they come hands to the God who is living.

Amen, says the man in robes.

Amen? Amen.

"When the time comes, the wildfishing a basket of the dogs. Jesus of Nazareth, he asks, what is your secret? Where is your strength? The power of the Lord is in my prayers, it is God who sent his son to save man from himself and the weight of a cross made heavy by evil spirits. It is time to rise, says the Lord.

And then hell breaks loose.

The Successor is dragged out to the presidential. The antiwash commissioner, many times over. The plunderer. The scapegoat. The archbishop had stood with his hands raised in prayer is now a sea of running deceivers. The lies to tides are broken, the seas of God break free. There are hands everywhere, scrabbling for purchase. The lie sisterhood of men in yellow shirts who belong to the Church of the Most Humanist struggle to hold the mob back. Stand down, they cried.

I write this a week after I staggered out from the grandstand, a 26-year-old reporter in a torn shirt and broken shoes, answering prayers to random gods. I had a 18-hour-old baby tangled in the heartbeat, but there was no way to get out unless I was going back.

I had no choice but to stay. On the ground, to hold my camera up to the roadway and take what I could get. When the barricades broke, I was on a ledge by the stage six feet from the ground, screaming in on a crowd maddened by the prospect of salvation. When I looked down there was a man kneeling, hunched up by my waistband, hands clutching and hugging the grey paint. There was a sack of rice back and a mass of shoving humanity at my feet, and for the endless space of a second I had the miserable certainty God was not going to be very forgiving that day. Because I am young and not the most practical of creatures, I considered, with the ledge at my back to shout the most ridiculous arts in my own ear. Stay dry, pulse steady, breathe. Don't panic.

It took some time before I understood that the chaos I was hearing was not from the crowd but from the men in yellow. There's a woman here, they were shouting. Stand back, there's a woman here. Then had formed a circle around me, shoving away the locals, and I realized that I was that woman, that they were trying to protect me from the crowd I had damned. I jumped off the ledge, got shoved under a platform, got dragged out by the same men who screamed the platform was collapsing, and then I was hauled on top of another ledge by several dozen men who said the woman was in trouble again.

Of course I jumped off eventually, because even this moment who insist on clearing their way into the ambulance when something's going to give. It took other felt like hours, although my camera records it as two minutes, before I got through to the stage and up to another ledge. There was a priest who gave me a hand, and the same men who pulled me from under the platform were there to make enough to give me a blessed flower and raise an opposing thumb.

This is what I saw: A baby, so tiny that a two-old, dangling from his pouch on his father's shoulders. A man, clinging to a pole, one eye encased red to stare a white wood. The Makoton made its slow way through the heaving crowd. A woman crying, her face the unrecognizable. Bloody, dead, please. Let us show the world we can command ourselves. Let us show the Lord we follow his bidding. The stone swells, the millions surge toward a single cross, young men throw themselves up to the cross to cling to its sides, while the men who saved something it pry away fingers and shove us bodies squirming off into the dirt.

In the Acts of the Apostles the Lord declares, I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions; your old people shall dream dreams. Even on the slaves, men and women, shall I pour out my Spirit. I will show portents in the sky above and signs on the earth below. The sun will turn dark and the moon will turn red before the great and terrible day.

And all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

And we have spoke of how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power, who went about doing good, and healed all those who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him. But there is the who who called out of God to be the Judge of the quick and the dead.

On the ninth day of the first month of the year of the Lord 2012, God's people came to remind him of his promise. The stories are the same. They are born, they say, to prove that God is the only way. They are sick and dying, and only God offers salvation. They need forgiveness and needed chances, they want free, better lives hand to mouth, and if they touch the rope that holds the Black Nazarene, if they bring home the white roses and fulfill their promise to return, God will reward them.

The Black Nazarene returns home to its glass box in Quiapo, to do God's people. They may not go ahead or find victory from sin and sickness and death, but they believe they have paid their dues. Perhaps the country will do the same.

Another case of 'do-it-yourself' justice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MAE, the stories emerging from the recent decision of the Office of the Ombudsman to re-visit and re-open the case of Mary Jacinta Philip Penalosa, accused of the murder of her father of the role played by Philip's parents, Felipe and Estrella, not only in keeping alive officials' interest in the case, but also in securing justice for their son.

As yesterday's editorial in this paper noted, "Ito pala't ang isang months" have elapsed since the death of Philip, initially ruled a suicide by his supporters in the Philippine Navy, but which more than the older Penalosa had denied, citing credible and reasonable factors.

And yet, despite the many questions and findings that point to foul play, the Penalosa family fought to fight, raising doubt on the finding of suicide, the Office of the Ombudsman essentially set on the case. Eventually, then Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez dismissed the case filed against 10 Navy officers charged in connection with the case "for insufficiency of evidence."

Still, despite the evidence of an active conspiracy to conceal the killing of Philip, and the indifference of many, the Penalosas continued to seek vindication for Philip. This is not the first time that Estrella and Felipe Penalosa have had to fight a perceived injustice. But until it is the last. For this example set by the Penalosas gives hope to all those fighting on, despite the lack of support and even hostility of the systems trusted to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The significance of the Penalosas' no-guarantees that their fight is over is a glaring example of what I've come to call "do-it-yourself justice" in this country. Although the law embodies certain values and the justice system (including the Department of Justice) is supposed to act on those values, rule and carry out punishment, ensuring that these are done depends a lot on the commitment, perseverance and resources of the family left behind.

* * *

DOD during the interrogation period, the family is often approached by police and detectives who ask for transportation or gasoline money to chase after suspects, or who dangle surveillance "leads" and then ask for an allowance so they could pursue those leads.

From if charges are filed, constant follow-up must be made to ensure the process proceeds apace. If the family leaves it up to the police, the case is bound to languish in the files, as else get lost in the shuffle. Sometimes, the family engages the services of a lawyer and even a PR person to keep the case in the limelight and to ensure the necessary "political will" to keep matters from languishing.

If you're thinking, as I am, that this is the family doesn't have the resources, or if family members constantly run out of gas (constitutional situation, determination, maybe even sleep), then the case of their loved one will either go unsolved or the individuals charged will be "railroaded." Then there's another way of saying that for the poor, justice is nowhere elusive, and the reasons not of their own making. In a country of "do-it-yourself" justice, where the bodies are meant not to enforce the law and bring the guilty to justice, but to serve as the law's lackeys, there it's up to folks like the older Penalosas to keep knocking on doors and storming Heaven with prayers and petitions.

* * *

REPORTS issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the week ended out by both international and local, and government and private agencies, working in the "trenches" affected areas of North Mindanao illustrate just how complex and difficult the work of post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and rebuilding can be.

According to the latest OCHA report, the current estimate is that nearly 30,000 families in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan need to be provided with alternative shelter, a number which doesn't include those who have already moved out damaged but sound within the government-designated "no-build zones."

The report also points out an often-overlooked aspect of the disaster—"formal settler families" that had been living for years (or lives of loved ones) but chose instead to stay in rented accommodations or stayed with host families like relatives or friends. They are hardly mentioned at all in official estimates.

* * *

ANOTHER overlooked aspect of the period is the need to protect the rights of women and girls and other vulnerable groups (like children, the elderly and the disabled) in evacuation centers and in the planning and implementation of rehabilitation projects.

Some 30,500 "extremely vulnerable" individuals have been identified by the "Protection cluster" and at this stage, efforts have been focused on "community-based interventions to help decrease gender-based violence, stabilize communities and address child protection issues, particularly those in remote communities, those additionally impacted by the on-going armed conflict and people with specific needs."

The Child Protection sub-cluster targets an average 100 evacuation centers and 50 schools, with the most pressing need being to "enhance the capacity of DSWD, local government units and others; protect children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking; support and assist in identifying separated and unaccompanied children; ensure access to safe play and recreation areas are provided there."

Mention is also made of the need to reduce the risks of gender-based violence in displacement and prospective return areas, particularly in "supporting capacity building within relevant government bodies" to make law enforcement and GBV-sensitive safe and protected even as they seek to cope with the challenges of their situation.

Why development aid is not enough

WORLD VIEW

Erik Solheim

DEAR—POVERTY is not only about not having enough money. It is also about exploitation and oppression, and about armed conflicts and wars that make it impossible to earn a business, visit the doctor, or send children to school. In short, poverty is about politics, and the need to devise political solutions to political problems, which in turn to solve more than providing money.

The world has changed greatly since 2000, when the international community adopted the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There has been a major shift in the balance of power. Countries previously regarded as poor enough to receive aid transfer and anti-emerging market powers of the world economy. Brazil has also shifted in the global political arena, with the global financial crisis catalyzing the emergence of the G-20.

The shift in power is also clear in the trend on our traditional embodiment growth path, the climate consequence will be devastating, even if the richer parts of the world succeed to get rid of all emissions today. The result would be floods, drought, dramatically reduced food production, and a global economy in shambles. Avoidance of this would obviously lead to a dramatic increase in poverty around the world, but, as always, the poorest countries would be the hardest hit.

The not to fight poverty is perhaps a reason we now still. We providing proper access to energy would mean not only denying a billion people basic human rights and rights, but also that never would still be dropped down by firewood, smoking in defunct cities and desertification.

Rich countries' engagement in the fight against global poverty has always been based on altruism and a sense of responsibility for our common destiny. But the decade of the 21st century has made it clear that fighting poverty is also necessary for economic future.

As Norway's minister for both the environment and development since 2007, I met with other countries' ministers with both portfolios, and it has come as a shock to us to learn the two groups have such separate lives. Both has not yet integrated agendas, an even analysis of the challenges ahead, as ever strategic plans, and hardly its own language. While such exceptions like importance of the other's agenda, unless they talk and act together, a satisfactory global growth will be achieved.

Meanwhile, global climate or not, governments were the most important forces where development and environment experts and decision-makers meet—those persons that have real influence global happenings has passed. The so-called developing world contains something that we must hope for more and more: real investments that are vital to our future existence.

These countries are able to choose a different technological path to growth, one based on low-carbon strategies and green principles. It is a path that we desperately need them to choose, but one that also means greater negotiating power for governments in these countries. Such a shift may be challenging, but maybe also healthy for our common future.

The missions needed for development, peacekeeping, and climate adaptation and mitigation will be enormous, and we have to start looking for the appropriate forms of aid. But, although aid is important, public funding from the developed countries can never be enough, even if we were to fulfill all our pledges.

Over the last decade, innovative financing has become the new buzzword, and not just for development. As part of the climate negotiations, new mechanisms for mobilizing funds are being suggested, with levies on air travel and taxes on financial transactions perhaps the best known. Such technology will have great potential to find the richest people would pay regardless of their own country's economic position.

But the most important of all financial flows are the flows made that pour out of so many developing countries, which the Tax Justice Network estimates to be between $850 billion and $1 trillion annually. Illicit cross-border financial transactions related to illegal activities, with profits from organized crime and the trafficking of drugs, weapons and human beings accounting for a substantial proportion. Corruption is another large cause, deprived through fraud, corruption, bribery, smuggling and money laundering. The largest chunk of illicit financial flows is related to commercial transactions, often within multinational companies, for the purpose of tax evasion.

These flows are not only unacceptable by any human, as the fight against global poverty should also be a fight against them. Tax havens undermine some crime more profitable, and the only way to fight them is to adopt global agreements on transparency in financial transfers, which should also cover companies set up purely for a country's basis.

We must also recognize that the MDGs can be achieved through development aid alone. The wider politics of poverty must be placed at the top of the international agenda, along with the three factors most crucial to development: climate, conflict and corruption.

Project Syndicate

Erik Solheim is Norway's minister for development and environment.

THEY SAID

Security threats

"There's no specific death threat. It's just like that. It's just 'security threats' because of those high-profile cases we are handling and (I'm) personally involved in and working on. I've always had security threats. This time around, it's because of the very sensitive and high-profile cases."

—Solicitor General Jose de Jesus, clarifying that the dead men in a recent shoot-out on the expressway were not out to get him

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to talkoftown@inquirer.com.ph

Libra Joan Y. Sarmiento Jr.

Impeachment trial scorecard

DEFINITIONS

Betrayal of public trust: Intentionally undefined, catch-all impeachment ground

Culpable violation of the Constitution: Willful violation of the Constitution

PART 1

Issue: May impeachment vicarious dominion developed in Supreme Court decisions confront changing winners?

Raul Pangalangan
(Former UP Law Dean)

- The people are the Constitution's ultimate interpreters
- Impeachment is their designated check and balance, through elected representatives, to demand accountability and contest a constitutional interpretation that has no resonance

Prosecution

- Supreme Court decisions show Chief Justice Renato Corona's bias. But impeachment Court is not asked to reverse them.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas
(Ateneo Law Dean Emeritus)

- The Supreme Court has power to interpret the Constitution
- The people rely and revert sovereignty in elections and plebiscites, not in survey results and rallies

Defense

- Under separation of powers, the impeachment Court may not review Supreme Court decisions

PART 2

Issue: May Corona be impeached even though he represents only one Supreme Court vote?

Prosecution

- Corona is accountable individually for the votes; a minority is not absolved if "billion jurisprudence" are not prosecuted
- Corona abused or lost administrative powers, engineered temporary restraining order (TRO) allowing former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA) to "flee from the country" and suppressed Jocelyn Ma. Lourdes Severo's dissenting opinion
- Corona presented himself as embodying the judiciary

Defense

- Punishing one but not the other five defendants is not fair
- Corona is not liable for decisions of a collegial body

PART 3

Preliminary: Verification

CONST., Art. XI, §3(4): "In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the Members of the House, ... trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed." Verified is Poblete's Court memo accompanied by affidavit that affiant has read document and allegations and has each correct based on personal knowledge or authentic records.

Prosecution

- Legal presumption that members of the House of Representatives can form opinion regularly on House member withdraws his or her signature
- Despite hearsay reports, there is no evidence that less than one-third of House members failed to read the complaint
- Verification is one person to authorize
- Technicalities are banned; trial proceeds after one-third of House members filed the complaint

Defense

- House members publicly admitted that they had no opportunity to read the complaint and never affixed "material considerations" to sign it
- Verification is a constitutional requirement, not a mere technicality

PART 4

Article 1A: Unconstitutional midnight appointment

GMA appointed the Chief Justice on May 17, 2010, after the elections and 23 days before her term ended

Prosecution

- CONST., Art. VII, §17: Beginning two months before the presidential election, the President shall not make appointments
- Presidential Spokesperson Macapagal-Arroyo's no-prohibition-midnight appointments, the Supreme Court upheld because the outgoing President cannot choose her successor
- Series in 2010: "any person who accepted the post of Chief Justice from Mrs. Arroyo would open himself or herself to impeachment"

Defense

- CONST., Art. VIII, §4(1): Any Supreme Court vacancy shall be filled within 90 days.
- The Supreme Court ruled that there was no midnight appointment

Article 1B: Bias

Corona voted pro-GMA in 17 percent of decisions according to a Newsweek study

Prosecution

- Although the Supreme Court is collegial, Corona consistently voted pro-GMA (Chief Justice casts a vote)

Defense

- Corona is only one vote in a collegial body
- Recusal for a justice to inhibit against the President was upheld in
- In a similar study of 133 decisions, Corona voted pro-GMA in only 20 percent

By Oscar Franklin B. Tan*

ON THE SUPREME Court, Judge Learned Hand quipped "it would be most irksome to be ruled by a bevy of Platonic Guardians ... I should rate the stimulus of living in a society where I have, at least theoretically, some part in the direction of public affairs."

Rule of law demands not mechanical adherence but active scrutiny of our developing constitutional tradition.

Impeachment is the most political of political exercises and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, for example, intends "to use political acceptability as the sole criterion" for his vote.

It falls to each citizen to form a critical opinion of the impeachment's progress and this outline of prosecution and defense pleadings aims to help one keep score.

PART 5

Article 2: Withheld SALN

CONST., Art. XI, §17: Justices must disclose to the public statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) as prescribed by law. Corona (the only SALN with the Supreme Court but does not disclose it.)

Prosecution

- Republic Act No. 6713 requires SALNs to be publicly available. Supreme Court guidelines cannot amend law
- Corona did not disclose his SALN when an NGO requested it
- SALN excludes high-value properties, including a 300-square-meter unit in The Bellagio in Bonifacio Global City, contrary to antimoney-laundering law

Defense

- Republic Act No. 6713 disallows SALNs from being obtained over to party to public policy
- Supreme Court 1996 guidelines allow SALNs to be withheld to protect judges from harassment
- Corona disclosed the Bellagio penthouse in his SALN, assets are "mostly from his professional fees"

PART 6

Article 3: Lack of integrity

CONST., Art. VIII, §7(3): A judge must have "proven competence, integrity, probity and independence"

Article 3A: Estelito Mendoza letter

Prosecution

- The Supreme Court "flip-flopped" on the final decision on Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight attendants' ruled against them after personal letter from Mendoza (alleged lawyer for GMA), with one opportunity for them to comment
- Corona has not talked among private lobbying parties in 2011 (PAL, Hacienda)
- Questionable acquisition of bias require lack of probity

Defense

- Letters treated by official communications are not secret
- Corona prohibited himself from PAL case
- PAL case is pending, may not be discussed

Article 3B: Wife's John Hay appointment

Prosecution

- Despite advice Corona's wife to be appointed board member from chair of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC) by GMA, who wrote letters to support her

Defense

- Corona's wife was appointed to JHMC board in 2001, before Corona was appointed Justice
- Wife was pursue own professional career

Article 3C: Vizconde reassurance case

Prosecution

- Despite plea Corona met Lejo Hizonada and Vizconde's known supporter, Hizonada entered supplied talks to discuss confidential details of the Supreme Court case

Defense

- Corona met the head of an entertainment NGO, did not know Vizconde would come
- They refused discussions on the case, not Corona

PART 7

Article 4: Ombudsman impeachment restrained

The tribunal is last armed the House committee on justice from pursuing the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez

Prosecution

- The order was issued within 24 hours over objections of three justices and dissents, according to leaks, some justices even received copies of the petition

Defense

- Supreme Court rules always use Justice to prepare a response like "SC petition and authorize prompt action
- Justices defend and protect courts

PART 8

Article 5: Flip-flopping judgments

Prosecution

- Corona failed to exercise leadership to stop flip-flopping
- The Supreme Court changed the final decision, twice, on conversion of 16 municipalities into cities; the first time was due to personal letters from Members and local executives
- The 6 October 2010 ruling on the final decision on the creation of the 33-regular-district province after motions by prospective officials not parties to the case

Defense

- Corona voted consistently for conversion
- Letters were received before Corona became a justice
- The Supreme Court upheld decisions after the letters; flip-flops came later
- Allowing reconsideration of decisions is convenience but not unprecedented; justices may change minds
- Holding Corona liable is unwarranted review of collegial decisions
- The Hacienda Luisita case is pending, may not be discussed

PART 9

Article 6: Exoneration from plagiarism

Plagiarism found in decision against Marcelo Rivera II "scandal coverup"

Prosecution

- Corona formed an ethics committee, chaired by him, to determine the author's guilt, allegedly to exonerate and preempt impeachment
- Supreme Court doctrine: Justices must be impeached; administrative investigation is disallowed if removal is the possible penalty
- The court may discipline lower judges only cases of justices involved acted as bar examiners, one who was punished already retired

Defense

- The ethics committee was created under Chief Justice Reynato Puno
- The committee was unanimous in that the Supreme Court may refer a case for impeachment or impose lesser sanctions
- The Supreme Court voted to dismiss charges, Corona was only one vote
- The Supreme Court may discipline justices, as the Constitution grants it supervision over all courts; the 6 former disciplined justices in the bar were improperly and the lack of documents is a litigant

PART 10

Article 7: Issuance of TRO to let GMA travel

GMA, husband challenged prohibition on their travel abroad

Prosecution

- Using administrative powers as Chief Justice, Corona organized the TRO, issued without hearing, allowing GMA to "flee from the country"
- The Supreme Court initially ruled that the TRO was not effective due to noncompliance with one condition; according to Severo's opinions (supported and contradicted by other justices' opinions), but Corona caused the Court spokesperson to tell the public that it was full force
- Severo alleged that Corona suppressed her opinion, which discredited proceedings at the TRO issuance
- The TRO let husband travel but only GMA allegedly needed treatment

Defense

- Justices deliberated the TRO extensively and considered previous arguments of the Solicitor General
- The Supreme Court voted the TRO effective but would lift it if conditions were never arrived within five days
- Corona is not liable for collegial decisions
- Consolidation of husband's case was due to the common issue of right to travel

PART 11

Article 8: Lack of financial transparency

Prosecution

- Corona refuses to report on spousal funds' status and to reveal collections of Ps.38 billion to Treasury
- P100.5 million of funds unexplained
- Financial reports were belatedly made on the day he was impeached

Defense

- Charges attack the Supreme Court's fiscal autonomy, also raised against Chief Justices Hilario Davide Jr. and Andres Narvasa
- Misstated balance before Corona's appointment
- The tribunal made reports to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), provided vouchers to the Commission on Audit
- Questioned collections under Supreme Court control per audit by the SC-EVM memo issued not to remitted

ASSAILED DECISIONS OF CORONA

Corona is allegedly biased voting seen in:

- 16 Dec GMA travel
- Truth Commission (Commissioner GMA)
- Midnight appointments
- Comelec Sec Bautista election (allegedly for GMA vice-candidacy)
- People's initiative on amend Constitution
- Proclamation No. 1811 (annul martial law)
- State of calamities declaration
- Acting of "Hello Garci" wiretaps
- Gag orders on officials attending congressional hearings
- Executive Order No. 464 and executive privileges
- Refusal of Secretary Romulo Neri to appear in Senate NBN-ZTE hearings
- Executive privilege and Ampatuan massacre cases
- Disqualification of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.
- Appointments without Commission on Appointments confirmation
- Corona-Mega Pacific corporate cases combined

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jan Rendaquel
Aurea Cinel Mica R. Alcantara

Disaster's deeper wounds invisible

AIR FORCE helicopters bring relief goods to the remote village of Otalog, 25 kilometers southeast of Iligan City that lost access to the rest of Iligan after floods and logs forced down from the mountains of Lanao del Sur destroyed the road that connects it to the city.

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Iligan City

AS THREE runners entered the gymnasium of Iligan City East Central School on Wednesday afternoon, school children stood in jubilation.

The din of laughter and happiness belie the tragedy most of them survived more than three weeks earlier when rampaging floodwaters as tall as their houses engulfed their communities.

But many others may not be as jovial as the children. Last week, a flood survivor in Cagayan de Oro took his life, believed to be because of depression.

A week after the floods, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Unhai) sounded off the need for mental care services for flood survivors.

So far, such services have reached some 6,000 people in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan based on the Jan. 18 situation report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Dr. Vim Talavar, of the Philippine Dermatal Hospital and part of a 20-member University of the Philippines mission sent to Iligan days after the tragedy last December, also said they saw signs of posttraumatic stress disorder among the flood survivors.

So, how should one go on after a disaster as monstrous as that which struck the two Northern Mindanao cities in the early hours of Dec. 17?

The question is not easy to answer. For most of over 120,000 families, amounting to 1.14 million people, doing basic provisions that had taken the brunt of floods, mudslides and landslides on that day, the disaster completely removed their lives.

This is especially true for those in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro where the damage and devastation from the disaster were concentrated.

NDRRMC said some 91.4 billion in infrastructure and crops were wiped out by the flash floods. A total of 53,722 houses were either damaged or destroyed.

Until today, some 80,025 families or 429,309 people are dependent on humanitarian aid for daily survival.

Perception

Instead of happy reunions during the holidays, the disaster brought anxious goodbyes and moments of grief and mourning.

Yet, the answer to the hard question may be hidden in each of the persons whose lives Typhoon Sendong "Bendong" indirectly overturned.

"The key is in the way we perceive the incidents which, in turn, influences our actions and decisions," said Tina Lomelin, executive director of non-government organization Balay Integrated Rehabilitation for Total Human Development Inc. which lost its office in the flood.

Lomelin, whose organization is part of the Mindanao Emergency Relief Network (MERN), has organized at least three teams of volunteers to help provide psychosocial support services to the survivors in Iligan where more than 91,000 people were affected by the flood, over 23,000 of whom still stay in the evacuation centers.

Because of the number demand for psychosocial support, MERN has partnered with another nongovernment group, Balay Rehabilitation Center, raising the number of volunteers to 21.

Some other groups like Salay Mindanao and Gabaen conduct play and art therapy sessions among children.

Age groups

Lomelin said they categorize recipients of psychosocial support into groups: below 5 years old, 5 to 6, 7 to 8, 9 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 17, and adults.

She added that this categorization is based on age-specific attributes like being at the developmental stage, the dimension of resiliency, capacities, and the propensity to lose or pause.

On Wednesday morning, teachers at Iligan City General School picked from among their Grade 1 pupils for a costume psychosocial support session that began with a game.

The children sing and act together with the facilitators and at a cue, chase a partner to whom they would introduce themselves.

Poses simply exchanging names, the task reminiscent of asking where one lives is one's hero's food, initially, facilitators patiently help set the ice ease in order to encourage them to speak up. But they eventually came out of their shells.

After the game, children agree on a 15-square meter tarpaulin for a chat about their common tragic experience.

Rising sun

Next, they were asked to present to in a board paper, using crayons and pencils, what they can remember on the day the disaster struck. Many drew flooding houses, drowning people, dark sky.

One stood out among them: a drawing of a rising sun.

In the process of doing their illustrations, the children noisily exchanged notes among each other about how they escaped the tragedy.

After a few minutes, some expressed sadness about lost toys and school things, and hence appliances like a television set.

According to Lomelin, it is best for people to open up and pour out their feelings about those tragic experiences to a group so that they feel there are other people apart from them, selves that they can turn to for comfort and listening ears.

Trevor Clark, of the United Nations Children's Fund, said the act of sharing experiences helps restore people's ability to express themselves which is a necessary step toward coming to terms with a terrible incident.

Anxiety with rain

When asked whether they sleep well at night, many children said they still experience shortages of hearing because.

"I will continue praying that God would not let the flood happen again," said one child.

Daphne Wacamilled, a MERN facilitator, said in the process of conducting the sessions, they gave participants whom they think need "more intense attention" so that they can be subjected to 6-1 one-through interventions.

Lomelin said in such cases, they can be visited in their homes or temporary shelters, or referred to psychologists for professional attention.

But as in all tragic stories, there are sovereigning comedies like the the tale of a 5-year-old child from Iligan Island whose family were stays in the Iligan test city.

At the height of the flood, the child's family climbed an attic to rise through the roof of their house which floated toward it. While clinging to a branch, the child prayed that "God would stop the rise of the water" because he didn't want to get wet.

He also promised to the grand ma he will not urinate because that can add to the water's rise.

Resolve

Aside from rooting to terms with the tragedy, Lomelin said survivors need to be helped to "recover for what they still have and be thankful for after everything has happened" so that they can overcome helplessness.

Among the children, Lomelin cited the need to ensure their opportunities for play for them to get over the tragedy fast.

This is why MERN has actively advocated for the allocation of "child spaces" in evacuation centers, or developing these in the new communities where the survivors are currently staying.

Orlea estimated that there are some 123,3000 affected school children aged 3–12 years in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities alone.

From doing sessions in the evacuation centers, Lomelin said they will soon be reaching out to survivors who chose to remain in their shattered communities.

She emphasized that the sessions would continue even as the survivors are already relocated to permanent housing units.

"The true essence of rebuilding their lives is in coming to terms with the tragedy and having a resolve to move forward," Lomelin explained.

Alfred Jose his family is getting along their new life at the housing Danilo Ventura said: "We have no choice but to start from scratch. At least we are alive."

Marbs, the wife what six child never when, during typhoon-chemical session, she shrieked a rising sun.

CHILDREN go on with their lives at a tent city in Iligan where at least 100 families found temporary homes. The deeper wounds brought by the Dec. 17 disaster, however, are harder to detect and could leave more lasting effects. Volunteers are now trying to prevent depression from setting in among the evacuees following a suicide inside an evacuation center.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Negros business groups oppose ₱97 wage hike

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Business groups in Negros Occidental are opposing a petition to increase minimum daily wages in Western Visayas by ₱97 and a move to increase part workers' charges.

Frank Carbon, head of the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on Thursday said the proposed increases in wages and part charges would be an added burden to businesses in this city on top of increases in business taxes.

"This is terrible and scary. All these increases will cause the prices of goodies skyrocket," said Carbon. "We are in for hard times."

The Western Visayas wage board is set to hold a public consultation on the petition filed by the Trade Union of Filipino Workers for a ₱97 daily wage increase for private sector workers in the region on Jan. 21, according to Carbon.

Women execs scuffle at budget meet

SURIGAO CITY—A meeting called to discuss Dinagat Island's funding woes on Friday turned ugly when the confrontation between Vice Gov. Geraldine Ecleo and Surigao provincial budget officer Maria Gay Cotiang-co became physical.

The meeting, held at the Surigao del Norte Capitol here, was attended by officials of both provinces and presided over by Nestor Bacdayan, director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Caraga region.

During the meeting, Bacdayan said that a memorandum of agreement between officials of Dinagat and Surigao del Norte for the funding of Dinagat's district hospitals, whose employees have been working unpaid for a year now, was being discussed when the confrontation erupted.

Dinagat's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), which is computed in about ₱200 million, was scrapped from the 2011 national budget because its status as a province has yet to be settled by the Supreme Court with finality. It now relies on Surigao del Norte, its mother province, to fund crucial infrastructure projects such as the 50-bed district hospital.

Witnesses told Inquirer that in the middle of the heated exchange between Ecleo and Cotiangco, a physical confrontation escalated.

In her subsequent report to the Surigao City police, Cotiangco said Ecleo had slapped her, pulled her hair and shoved her face.

Ecleo told reporters she might have grabbed Cotiangco's hair after the latter scuffled but denied she slapped her.

The two also had different versions on how the trouble started. Ecleo said Cotiangco grimaced her when she reportedly told her to shut up. She said she was talking during the meeting but the budget officer had disparaged her.

In her version, Cotiangco said it was Ecleo who scrutched her when she replied after being told to shut up.

In Bacdayan's story, the fists of Ecleo pulled each other's hair. Bacdayan said he did not see Ecleo slapping Cotiangco.

He also said he could not categorically say who started it all.

Cotiangco said Surigao del Norte provincial administrator Primitivo Plaza and DILG provincial director Rodolfo Labog could testify on his side. None of these officials, however, would comment on the incident when asked by the Inquirer.

Dinagat's financial woes started with the flip-flop decision of the Supreme Court on the legality of its conversion as a province.

The high court had earlier declared as valid the 2006 law that created the province of Dinagat when it was questioned by Surigao City residents in 2008. In July, high court lists received that decision.

Dinagat officials filed a motion for reconsideration, which remains unsettled to this day.

But the reversal of the decision cost Dinagat its 80% when the Interprovince collidget and Manager's issue decided to withhold it in November. Items/V delender 15, Inquirer Mindanao

SWEET DELIGHTS
Residents catch candies thrown by a parade participant during the Biggest Peninsula Pharaohs, Buran Sur, last month.

Rights worker nabbed for '09 slay plot vs Sulu gov

DAVAO CITY—Former Ambo Guiamelon Romapiri "Goyo" Talaroc was arrested by police and military agents from his house in Barangay Mintal here before dawn Saturday.

Talaroc, a human rights activist, had been ordered arrested by a Sulu regional trial court in connection with the 2009 assassination attempt on Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan.

Tan narrowly escaped death when a bomb exploded just outside the provincial capitol in Patikul town as his car passed by last 12 others were injured in the attack.

Talaroc had repeatedly denied any role in the assassination attempt on Tan, saying the charges brought up against him were politically motivated.

Talaroc had openly criticized Tan for his power and order policy, which he said, had resulted in massive human rights violations in Sulu.

But some suspects, Idrus Akbarsha and Muhammad Sakaymas Main, had testified that Talaroc masterminded the explosion, according to Ronald Cabanos, Silliman Mindanao-wide prosecutor.

During political persecutions, Talaroc had also said that last year he pledged to free the charges as long as the hearings were held outside the province.

Carlo Claudio, also a human rights activist based here, said police and military were to hell bothe pose bodes into the house where Talaroc and his two sons were sleeping and arrested Talaroc.

Talaroc, he said, did not resist arrest.

He was first brought to the Talaroc police station and later to Camp Crimpen, Cicoli said.

He the Philippine People's Commission on Human Rights (CHR) announced he would investigate the arrest.

Gerwalino Lacorte, Brenda Jay Santos and Julie Alcaide, Inquirer Mindanao

Comelec affirms recall bid vs Palawan gov

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has denied a motion by recommendation filed by Palawan Gov. Abraham Kahlil Mitra on an earlier en banc resolution of the poll body upholding the sufficiency of a recall petition filed by a councilor-led group against the governor.

In an en banc ruling dated Jan. 12 and received Friday by the office of the provincial election supervisor of Palawan, the poll body upheld its earlier decision and ordered the provincial Comelec to begin the process of verification of the signatures for the recall petition.

The group Kilusang Gobyerno Muna para sa Palawan (KGM), led by former provincial budget officer Gerne Ventura, filed a recall petition against Mitra in September last year, backing it up with the signatures of over 154,000 petitioners gathered from various towns of Palawan.

The KGM in its petition stated as basis for their recall initiative "loss of confidence owing to alleged graft acts, incompetence, misconduct in office, inexcusable negligence, intellectual dishonesty and emotional instability."

The Comelec en banc ruled against Mitra's assertions contained in his motion for reconsideration that the recall bid was but a scheme put up by his political opponents who lost to him in the last local elections.

The poll body also rejected Mitra's allegation that he was denied due process in the Comelec's earlier go signal for the petitioners to proceed with the recall petition.

"Respondent (Mitra) cannot claim deprivation of due process inasmuch as he has been given the right to be heard, which in fact allowed him to file a motion for reconsideration," the Comelec resolution stated.

Mitra on his side said he has yet to receive a copy of the Comelec ruling, but added that he was prepared to prove his claim that most of the signatures gathered by the recall petitioners included even those that were collected to support an unlicensing petition in Palawan.

"It is a crisis because of the fraudulent manner the signatures were gathered which included nonexisting signatures," Mitra said.

Under the law, only 49,000 or 20 percent of the total number of Palawan's registered voters are sufficient to hold recall elections.

In Pampanga town, rebuilt bridge becomes a lifesaver

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga—When the question "What has this bridge done for you?" first popped up, Alexander Medina did not need pondering to assert: "Marupat na unap Lupain Pelaya ing Bridge bata buenpondering ne ing bridge."

Medina, 57, vice chairman of a small farmers' association, said the bridge ended five hours of walking through alternative routes and only three minutes. The bridge also nullified the danger of the Pantabangan Dam being cut off from the town.

Built in the 1950s over the Pampanga River in the foothills of the Zambales mountain range, the Apalit-Pulungbulo Bridge was destroyed by the earthquakes that occurred ahead of the June 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, and reconstructed finally in 2009.

"To go to our farms in [Barangay] Pulungbulo from where we live [in Barangay Apalit], we had to walk to reach Pelaporan Creek [a shallow part of the river] between Barangays Cacamuchi and Concepcion," Medina said.

He said travel became a punishing ordeal during the times of heavy rains and harvest time. "We go round and round, always looking for shallow parts [to be able to cross] Pampanga," he said.

The conditions prevailed for 10 years for some 3,000 farmers and Aetas in Barangays Apalit, Dalayap, San Ramon, Sabutolid, Cacamuchi, Dampe in that town, as well as for about 200 farmers in nearby Barangay Bancuran in Sasmuan, Pampanga, according to Floridablanca Mayor Edwardo Guevarra.

"I told [former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo] that this bridge is outgoing expenditure [only important]. No development would come to this part of Pampanga unless the bridge is rebuilt," the mayor recalled telling Arroyo, now Pampanga representative and pulled his elected head.

Over 10,000 hectares of the town's upon flood areas are on the upland, alongside 8,000 ha of lowland drained by the river, he said. The provincial government has been developing Sabutolid as an ecotourism destination.

Made under the President's Bridge Program, the Apalit-Sulung Bridge can carry up to 20 tons.

Driving to Apalit and Pulungbulo and river rivers through the bridge now takes 30 minutes.

The bridge was a blessing, added, but Dalayap Municipal, 43, was quickly rushed to a military hospital inside Basa Air Base after a cobra bit him last year. "If not for that bridge, he would have been dead possibly," Dalayap's daughter-in-law, Brenda Mendoza, said. Dennis Pindan, Inquirer Central Luzon

THE APALIT-PULAPANGAC Bridge has been a big help to users Lenore Alexander Medina in Floridablanca, Pampanga.

TWO shots of Jessie Lolo of Albay leading through floodwaters lined carrying the Philippine flag which she rescued from her school at the height of Typhoon "Juaning" was taken by Baltimore resident Frank Pina Lozano.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Monica Feria

monicaferia@yahoo.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

New hope for OFW on death row Dondon Lanuza

Fil-Am businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis—with the help of a mysterious Saudi prince—is spearheading the drive to raise P35-million 'blood money' to get Dondon out of death row. She needs public support: check out www.helpdondon.com

ABDULAH 'DONDON' Lanuza was forgiven by the family of the man he had killed in 2008. But P35 million in "blood money" for his freedom seemed like an unreachable star.

TWO MOTHERS Fil-Am businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis joined Lanuza's mother Lordy in a press conference in New York last month on raising prize for final drive that could bring Dondon home.

By Monica Feria

PITY AND look only finally to residing in favor of outcome Filipino worker Rodolfo "Dondon" Lanuza, who has been on death row in Dammam, Saudi Arabia for the past 11 years. His restless mother campaign for justice and assistance has caught the attention of a Filipino-American businesswoman and philanthropist, Loida Nicolas Lewis, on and on a fundraiser whose identity remains a mystery.

Thirty-seven year old Lanuza, who has always maintained that his killing of a Saudi man in 2008 was an act of self-defense, was finally forgiven by the aggrieved family last October 29, 2011. But he has to raise funds to raise the hefty P35 million (3 million riyals or over P800,000 "blood money" required for his freedom.

Quezon City-raised Lanuza, an architecture student from MLQ University, has been incommunicado since "beyond with colleagues through online social networking sites for many months trying to raise the amount. But as the end of last year, friends and supporters of Lanuza had started only $13,000 or barely two percent of the amount needed to give him a second chance at life. A desperate appeal to President Aquino last year has not gotten an encouraging response.

But new blessings might—just might—shine on Lanuza this year.

Last December, amid rumors, Lewis joined the condemned OFW's mother, Lordy Lanuza, in a press conference in New York, reinvigorating the campaign to raise the blood money requirement by February, which marks one year since the pardon was offered.

Lewis has since revealed in a phone interview with the Inquirer that a Saudi prince, whose identity she will keep a secret for the moment, has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, the money that Lewis and Lanuza's families raise.

"I don't want to mention his (the Saudi prince's) name yet," Lewis said. Let's see first how much money we can raise on our own. The Lanuzas will join also, he is a member of the Saudi royal family who has been very generous through the years in helping Filipinos, particularly ex-Muslimes."

The campaign should be able to draw a substantial effort and ground swell for Dondon's cause.

Will you't contribute!

Lewis will fly to Manila next week to seriously push the fundraising campaign (www.helpdondon.com). She is hoping the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, of which Lanuza was once a member, will also contribute a substantial amount.

When contacted, DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said a bilateral committee headed by Sec. Presidential Adviser Mary Ann "Sali Disomang" the issue of blood money for jailed OFWs. Their recommendations will be submitted to the President.

A case of self-defense

With so many OFWs in death row in various parts of the world, why was Lewis particularly drawn to Lanuza's plight?

She admits a little luck and chance was on Lanuza's side: a Bershan journalist thought (coincidence) had persuaded her to take a look at his case. Lewis, as is well known, has never forgotten her Bershan roots and has a soft heart for requests from her countrymen.

But it was more than the Bahrain connection that got Lanuza through. Lewis is also a lawyer.

"As a lawyer, when I read the brief of his lawsuit, it explained my sense of justice. Self-defense is a valid defense for acquittal. And yet he was convicted for [premeditated] murder. He should have been acquitted."

On Aug. 10, 2008 then 27-year-old Lanuza, an architecture graduate in Dammam, had gone out partying with friends. An apparent extension of the "live-the-road" practice of young boys and lad him to the house of their dead host. Before the night was over a scuffle ensued. Lanuza escaped but the dead man died. He had argued that it was an act of self-defense. "I was defending my dignity," he argued. But like OFW Sarah Balabagan much earlier, he was convicted and sentenced to death.

'He doesn't deserve to die'

Lewis does not want to publicly discuss the details of Lanuza's case anymore.

She appealed: Let's not raise up memories what happened that night and why Dondon, tasked up stabbing the man. "The aggrieved family has already forgiven him. Let's not denigrate the memory of their lost loved one anymore. What is important is that Dondon has a chance of getting out of death row," she urged.

At any rate, she feels strongly that Lanuza "does not deserve to die."

She added: "This is unlike the case of the Filipino drug mules sentenced to death in China," she added. "This cannot help [these cases]. They know what they were doing. In Dondon's case the death was accidental..." she said.

"We Filipinos have to help our brethren be it in our own territories, our country," she added.

An aspect of faith also framed up her convictions. By a twist of chance she met the mother of Lanuza in Manila where she attended a global summit of overseas Filipinos. "She struck me as very prayerful. And I felt her heart-felt faith... She she never doubted, that God would set her son through this ordeal."

After meeting Lanuza's mother, Lewis said, "I knew that I had to help him."

The amount is not big for one of two donors Lewis has been sending out letters and public appeals to Filipinos here and abroad to contribute to Dondon's freedom fund.

Lanuza's mother has also issued a personal appeal: "We do not have the luxury of time. By February 2012, it would be one year since they (the aggrieved family) forgave us and agreed to a blood money negotiation."

"Fifty-four days we have very little to show to them. It may mean the withdrawal of their forgiveness and hasten the death of Dondon. Lord, open [our] t."

Public support needed

Lewis urged Filipinos here and abroad to give generously to the cause of justice. Interested here to donate can point of on www.helpdondon.com.

Donations by check can be sent to a special account: Loida H. Lewis FBO Dondon Lanuza (BX BOX 1088 New York, NY 10268). Money remittance or wire transfer donations can be sent to the account: Loida N. Lewis FBO Dondon Lanuza Landmark Bank, 1 Penn Plaza, New York,Account No.: 1004842[illegible] Swift Code: MRTCUS33.ABA Routing #: 026003940) or to Mrs. Lewy Lanuza's bank account (Metrobank Branch Malolos Sta Arthur Hi-Way Branch/Savings Account No. 3375-1-37502-112-9 Swift Code:MRTCPHMM)

For more information, please visit the website or contact Lewis's assistant Lila Soriano at (646)1299274.

Lewis all help give Dondon Lanuza mother chance of life.

Families beg OFWs in war torn countries not to return home yet

By Susan R.

DESPITE the intensified efforts of the government to repatriate overseas Filipino workers from protest-wracked Syria, many Filipinos are still reluctant to leave.

The Department of Foreign Affairs stated on its site that in the East country from level 3 to level 4, which calls for mandatory evacuation until escalating violence.

Reddy DOE found out that the reason OFWs are hesitant to leave is that their relatives themselves are the pleading with them not to leave Syria believing that the violence will end soon.

Sad but that is the truth in most of OFW families. Their love assures that their OFW relatives might suspend or help stop sending money back home. Instead of encouraging them to return, some families are pushing them to stay there.

In addition to this, while our government is busy repatriating OFWs, there are some Filipinos who continue to enter the country to look for work.

Illegal recruiters, some reports have it, ignore the ban on deployment in that country in accordance with Syrian network.

Bantay OCW appeals to the relatives of OFWs to encourage their OFW relatives to leave the strife-torn country as soon as possible.

Indiscriminate off-loading

Following complaints from OFWs and tourists, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) recently issued new measures aimed at containing abuses of the government's so-called off-loading policy.

The BI was criticized for its alleged "indiscriminate" off-loading of passengers, who turn out to be legitimate migrant workers and legal travelers.

The off-loading policy was put in place to curb illegal recruitment and human trafficking. However, it has become controversial because of the complaints of abuse of discretion and corruption of immigration officials.

Illegal deployment abroad of Filipinos is indeed dangerous, some may be utilized in illegal activities such as drug and firearms smuggling.

According to Atty. Antonette Mangonbang, BI spokesperson, immigration officers will be more cautious in treating passengers who are legitimate tourists. Mangonbang assured them that there will also be a smoother processing in immigration counters.

Papers and processes

Legitimate OFWs must only present proof that they are legally documented workers, have undergone the proper application process in government agencies and have a guaranteed job overseas.

Mangonbang also added that if the passengers believe that some immigration officers tend to abuse their authority, they should immediately call the attention of their officers. Be promised or immediately seize complaints.

Susan Ando, a.k.a. Susan R is on assignment at RADYO INQUIRER 990 DZIQ AM, Mon.-Fri., 7-11 p.m. (live streaming www.dziq.com), and at 89FM Channel 4, Mon-Fri, 10-10 p.m.-11 (@ p.m. (live streaming www.89fm.tv). Reddy DOE (Institute 03572208 / 8819420/ 0919 254 0698. E-mail: susanbantayocw@yahoo.com / bantayocw@rainbow.ph@yahoo.com)

Commission on Filipinos Overseas launches 2012 Presidential Awards

THE COMMISSION on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) has launched a new awards for the Iginiad Gawad ng Pangulo Awards.

The award, which was established in 1991, aims to honor and recognize overseas Filipinos who have substantially supported relief, rehabilitation and development programs in the home country. The roster of awardees now includes some 328 overseas Filipino individuals, organizations and their foreign partners, who have been a source of pride and have significantly contributed to the betterment of Filipino communities here and abroad.

The four (4) award categories are:

* Lingkod sa Bayan Filipino (Linkapil Award)—for overseas Filipino associations or individuals with exceptional or significant contributions to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development.
* Bayanig Award—for overseas Filipino individuals or associations for their countless time in advancing the cause of or have significantly benefited overseas Filipino communities or sectors.
* Kasuli Award—for foreign individuals or organizations with exceptional or significant contributions to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities.
* Dayuma ng Pilipino Award—for overseas Filipinos who have demonstrated the talent and industry at the Filipino and brought honor and recognition to the country through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

There are the procedures:

1. Any individual or organization (Filipino or foreign) based in the Philippines or overseas may submit nominations for the awards.

2. Former awardees who are not recipients of the award may be renominated under the same or different category.

3. Individuals or organizations may not be nominated in more than one category. However, at present the right to redundancy nominations or needed).

4. If an individual and his or her organization are nominated to the same category the primacy of the organization is upheld.

5. Only one award can be given to a person or organization for the same activities.

6. Awards may be given posthumously.

7. Nominations may be submitted to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas or to the Awards Committee of any Philippine embassy or consulate. Online nominations can be done through www.cfo.gov.ph.

8. Awards ceremonies will be held at the Malacañang Palace in December 2012.

Deadline for submission is June 15, 2012.

For more information, you can contact telephone numbers (632) 551-8241 or (632) 552-4700 local 761-767, and e-mail addresses at [illegible]@cfo.gov.ph, [illegible]@cfo.gov.ph and rpangilinan@cfo.gov.ph.

PACQUIAO

MAYWEATHER JR.

Don't count out Mayweather yet—Arum

By Ray Loseria

WHAT a difference a day makes.

As late as Friday, Floyd Mayweather Jr. was out of the picture for Manny Pacquiao's next opponent.

Hall of Fame promoter Bob Arum insisted that there's no way Pacquiao-Mayweather would push through on May 5, which the unbeaten American has reserved for his next fight in his Las Vegas backyard.

But added by events midnight by a 90-plus-quarterwriter shortly before his deparature for the United States yesterday afternoon, Arum replied: "I can't see that (May) will be it and I."

Either Pacquiao was ebb to convince Arum to put back May to allow in the ring, or Arum had Mayweather in the ring.

Meaning, Mexican warrior Juan Manuel Marquez, whom Pacquiao beat by a controversial majority decision last November, will have to fill in late again as come a fourth rock against Pacquiao.

Another strong candidate, Lamont Peterson, suddenly dropped out of contention when the World Boxing Association ordered a rematch of his December bout against Amir Khan. It is where he outpolled the WBA/International No. 1 ranking Poloholian light welterweight title.

Earlier, Mayweather's rumored voice during Pacquiao to fight him on May 5 in a bout that is expected to guarantee each fighter at least $50 million each.

Mayweather holds the WBC welterweight crown while Pacquiao reigns as the WBO.

Arum, who also met with Pacquiao Tuesday night, said May 5 is too early, proposing instead that the showdown, also promoted by Arum's Top Rank, be pushed to the first of June. Or Cinco De Mayo-Mayweather in 2007, he held into May instead, before Mayweather starts serving his 87-day jail sentence for domestic violence on June 1.

Given a choice, Arum said June 7 would be the perfect date, as 40,000-seat undersold arena in Los Angeles would be ready by then.

If everything doesn't fall into place, Arum, as well as renowned trainer Freddie Roach, would let Bute instead round to tangle with Mayweather in November.

Rose returns, powers Bulls past Celtics

DERRICK Rose (right) of the Chicago Bulls celebrates after defense of Boston Celtics big man Jarvis Hayes O'Neal. The reigning MVP came back from a one-day rest due to a sore knee to lead the Bulls to victory over the Celtics in the fourth period.

BOSTON—Reigning Most Valuable Player Derrick Rose returned from a brief, injury-forced break Friday and led the Chicago Bulls to an 88-79 victory over the Celtics in the NBA.

Rose sat out the Bulls' win over Washington on Wednesday with a sprained leg, left wrist and after a slow start on Friday he finished with a game-high 20 points and added seven assists.

The Celtics (16-8) struggled through a lackluster first half scoring on just 20 percent of their shots while the Bulls (21-11) sprinted to a 52-33 lead.

"The guy can play on a leg," Rose said of Celtics' power star Jeff Green. "I want to be great. This is something I have to fight through. It's not stopping me."

Rose notes have been a recurring theme in the Celtics' current three-game losing stretch, all at home.

"We have to have better starts," said Rajon Rondo. "That sets the tone for the whole game. I want to be great. This is something I have to fight through. It's not stopping me."

Given

UP blanks Ateneo XI; UST turns back FEU

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines started its title-retention campaign on a positive note, overrunning Ateneo, 3-0, yesterday in the DAAD Season 74 men's football tournament at the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium in Manila.

Defenders Ariel Nik Ayroo and Miguel Ruiz stands for the Fighting Maroons, who are bidding to recover back-to-back titles and their third in four years.

Seeking redemption from the loss to UP in last year's final, University of Santo Tomas also fashioned out a narrow 1-0 win over last foe-ran U.

Forward Christian de Asis was at the right place at the right time to score the game-win-ner just before halftime for the Tigers, who lost, 0-2, to last year's finalists.

Over at the FEBI Philoj 9 arena in San Juan, La Salle swept ambitious in women's volleyball as it crushed past Adamson, 25-19, 25-18, 25-22, while FEU toppled National U, 25-15, 25-19, 25-19.

Cha Cruz fired 18 points, including three blocks as the Lady Archers solidified their hold of top spot with three straight wins.

Rosemarie Rojas sparkled for the Lady Tamaraws with 10 points. FEU improved to 5-1, while NU dropped to 1-5.

Meanwhile, UST and Adamson posted their second straight victories to set the pace in softball in the Final Memorial baseball field.

UP walloped UE, 9-2, in a victory highlighted by Cris Tiantoi's homerun—the first in the tournament this season.

Cedrik D'Aquo

PATRIOTS import Anthony Johnson (left) dunks the ball against Chobarr Random of the Cobras.

Patriots outclass Bangkok Cobras

By Jure Navarro

MANILA (Philippines) — Even early and the six-time Philippine Patriots easily tore the visiting Bangkok Cobras to shreds, 89-58, last night in the opener of the 2013 season Basketball League at the San Juan Gym.

The 6-foot-10 Miller unloaded 20 of his 24 points in the first half while Anthony Johnson added 17 for the Patriots, who scored a 20-5 run in the second period to jumpstart their bid to reclaim the title they lost last season.

By the time Miller was done, the Patriots were beyond recall, 46-18.

"We're a small team so we have to rely heavily on quickness. We also focused on defense in installation the win disadvantage," said Patriots coach Glen Capacio.

The Patriots forced the Cobras into committing 15 turnovers in the first half, nine of them in the second when the lead ballooned to 61-23.

Baffled by the flawless defensive plays of the Patriots, the Cobras scored only five points in that span as imports Gentry Lewis, Bruce Bruins and Marvin Cruz combined go their shots in full.

"Miller has been adjusting well with his new teammates. He's our biggest option at the point," said Capacio. "Tonight, we had many turnovers because we controlled the boards."

Beating the Cobras, 61-33, off the glass, the Patriots had 18 fastbreak points against Bangkok's six as Miller grabbed 14 rebounds, eight off the offensive boards. He also added four blocks.

JOE Devance, Bangkok coach and former of PBA star Kobe, smiles during the game.

The Patriots will be in tuneup by the San Miguel Beermen next on Jan. 20 at the Filoil Flying V Centre in Pasig City.

"They have bigger scoring players. We have to be responsible on defense. Our offense is always there but everything has to stand on the defensive end," said Capacio.

Warriors Thailand had more points while Ricky Lacsing and Jonathan Fernandez had eight against both on seven-for-nine shooting and a couple of high-arching three pointers.

Coached by Joe Bryant, father of NBA superstar Kobe of the LA Lakers, the Cobras managed to squeeze out 11 points from Cruz while the seven Jose Stanton finished with nine points and two rebounds.

Lewis had nine points and 18 boards but he expended more energy complaining to the referees and talking foolishly on every dead-ball situation.

The scores:

PATRIOTS (89) – Miller 14, Johnson 17, Quinn 5, Jamerlan 2, Joseph 2, Lewis 3, Ramos 3, Dupaya 6, Rodriguez 4, Ramos 2, Ramos 2, Ramos 2

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail at: sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyboy S. Philomeno
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Cebrian

Powerade, Petron try to seal unlikely title duel

By Jane Navarro

POWERADE tries to arrange an unlikely title showdown with Petron for the PBA Philippine Cup when the Tigers and the Boosters shoot for the clinching fourth win in their best-of-seven semifinal series against separate rivals today at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers gained a 3-2 edge over the Rain Or Shine Elasto Painters with a 118-108 squasher last Friday and the tournament's revelation try to close out the series and seal a first ever final slot at 6:30 p.m.

The Boosters got a second chance to crash the finals earlier at 4:15 p.m. when they tangle with the Talk 'N Text Texters, who rallied back out a 93-91 squeaker also last Friday.

Powerade, the last to qualify in the playoffs, relied on prized rookies JV Casio and Marcio Lassiter to slip past the Painters, who lost their sharp shooting touch in Game 5.

But today's match remains as much of a toss-up as the Petron-TNT duel.

On the heels of earning the "Sequoyah Trainer, the Boosters suddenly lost their shooting touch in the dying moments with Alex Cabagnot, Petron's Game 3 hero, missing a wide-open three-pointer with 32 seconds left before Arwind Santos botched a weak triple that barely touched the rim.

"It's just a battle of survival for us. It's a matter of who wants it more and getting the right breaks in the end," said TNT coach Chot Reyes, who is trying to get back at Petron which spoiled his grand slam bid in the Governor's Cup last August.

Power forward Kelly Williams, who had a swollen hamstring and pulled out in the early part of the second half, will sit out the remainder of the series as well as starting guard Ryan Reyes, who injured his wrist in Game 4.

"We just bottled on pure gun without Kelly and Ryan. Those are the cards dealt to us, we just have to find ways to survive. They're disturbed but you'll never know," said Reyes.

GAME TODAY
(Smart Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs Petron
6:30 p.m. — Powerade vs Rain Or Shine

For Petron coach Ato Agustin, it's still a battle of adjustments and proper game plan execution.

"They (Tropang Texters) have changed their game. We have to check out the video clips again and make adjustments," said Agustin.

The Elasto Painters not only lost their sharpness but also their defense which failed as maybe the Tigers' comeback in the last two minutes last Friday.

On the other end, Paul Lee, JR Quiñahan, Larry Rodriguez, Sonjay Barcelo, Jeff Chan and Beau Belga all failed to buy a basket for Rain Or Shine, which was held scoreless in the last 1:17 of the game.

"It's hard to tell if we could close the deficit tomorrow (today). Rain Or Shine is always capable of coming back. We'll just play as it's Game 6 in my line," said Powerade coach Bo Perasol.

POWERADE rookie JV Casio (left) will renew his rivalry with Rain or Shine's Gabe Norwood.

JESON Castro is expected to play another pivotal role for Talk 'N Text today.

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Tabuena misses Sony Open cut

MIGUEL Tabuena of the Philippines added a 3-over par 73 to his opening 71 Friday (Saturday in Manila) and missed the halfway cut by five strokes in his PGA Tour debut in the $3.5-million Sony Open in Honolulu.

Tabuena, 37, one of five players given sponsorship exemptions, had a 36-hole total of 144, five off the cut pegged at 3-under 139. Matt Every of the US grabbed the lead by two strokes at 10-under 130 with rounds of 68-64.

Every closed with three straight birdies, giving him a two-shot lead over Carl Pettersson (67) and David Hearn, who kept the Canadian pressure on the leaderboard with his second straight 66.

Bernhard de Jonge shot 62 and Pat Perez was solid again with a 67 to finish three strokes behind, along with Doug Labelle, a Monday qualifier at the Sony Open for the third time.

Steve Stricker made double bogey from a bottle in a bunker that ended his tournament. He had to settle for a 10-foot putt for double bogey.

Every made seven in 2010 when he was arrested and jailed on a cocaine-possession drug possession charge. He was suspended for three months, returning in time for the last event, leaving him little hope of keeping his card. AP

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PH Cuppers favored over Pacific Oceania

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN with Cecil Mamiit in the sidelines, the Philippines will be the favorite when it goes up against Pacific Oceania in their Davis Cup Group 2 tie slated Feb. 10 to 12 in Iriga City.

That was the assessment of Philippine DC administrator and Philippine Tennis Association vice president Randy Villanueva who added that Brian Dabul, the world's No. 56 in doubles, "will be the big difference" in the tie.

"Its (a) still (much the first time the 36-year-old Mamiit won't see action for the 19th time since 2006, but the country's long-time team mate will still be around as non-playing team captain, according to Villanueva.

Also making up the team which will try to climb back to Group 1 next year are PhAm Rubeo Gonzales, teenage hotshot Jeson Patrombon and veteran Johnny Arcilla.

"We made big chances at stake and now that Cecil is no longer around, they (players) will have the playing time they need," added Villanueva, who said the Phlka board felt the need to make the major adjustment after the country has all three ties until get demoted from Group 1 last year.

Mamiit, who didn't retire yesterday on his Facebook page, has played for the DC team since 2006 when the Philippines was in Group 3. He entered the country back to Group 1 and continued playing two years after ending from the team's demise.

"If Brian is our playing, we'll be on equal footing with Pacific Oceania," said Villanueva of the 26-year-old Ilang, who is ranked 1,085 in singles and will be the top player for the Philippines. Ilang will also play doubles with Gonzales.

Pacific Oceania is a pool of players from seventeen islands in Oceania including Australia and New Zealand. It has yet to play in Group 1 and from Iran, 4-1, last year to stay in Group 2.

Among Pacific Oceania's players are 29-year-old Pere Riro from Marshall Islands, who won two soldiers against Iran, 23-year-old Daniel Utoroa and 25-year-old Michael Leong, the only-world ranked player in the team at 1,797, who hails from Solomon Islands.

A powerhouse among Group 2 teams, Iran's lightweight in Group 1, the Philippines is ranked 91st in Davis Cup. It last played in Group 2 in 2009 when it swept Hong Kong, Indonesia and New Zealand to get back to Group 1.

But it barely managed to stay in the elite group, needing a come-from-behind decision over South Korea in the relegation tie after losing to Japan and Chinese Taipei. Last year, the country lost to New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and Japan, the last two ties held in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.

NUMBERING Manny Pacquiao joins Unlimited Network of Opportunities Corp. bosses Oliver Chua (left) and Herbie Chua during a party held in his honor. Pacquiao has yet to decide on his first opponent this year. Story on page A20.

Aplus METRO
Editor Akiko S. Ulanday

'Kariton Klasrum' on streets soon

DIVERSION Members of the Star Elite Patrollers Jr. Unit, Education Secretary Armin Luistro and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman show to the media the "Kariton Klasrum" during its launching Saturday in the Department of Education. The mobile classroom will be rolled out in the streets of Metro Manila to help out out-of-school youths. NOEL PABA

By Tarra Quismundo

ROLLING out soon on Metro Manila's streets: The new and improved "Kariton Klasrum."

Taking the lead of a global force, the Department of Education (DepEd) on Saturday launched an alternative learning program to reach out to street children, adopting the pushcart learning system of 2000 CEO Hino Efren Peñaflorida.

DepEd and Peñaflorida's Dynamic Team Company (DTC), with the help of local government units, the social welfare department, barangay officials and the police, will bring the Kariton Klasrum to Metro Manila to bring a six-month basic literacy program to street children aged 8 to 15.

The goal of the Kariton Klasrum is not to replace formal schooling but to help kids on the streets who have dried away from school because of poverty, lack of interest in studying, and negative elements in their surroundings," Peñaflorida said at the launch at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig City.

"The Kariton Klasrum is here to encourage the street children or go back to formal education," he said.

Called K4 or "Kariton, Klasrum, Kinds, Kamits," the project aims to bring a flexible learning experience for those who cannot go to school through providing an alternative classroom, breakfast and feeding.

Aiding up the program, Peñaflorida brokered an initiative Cavite City several years back. DepEd will roll out this month four canteen classrooms in the cities of Manila, Pasig, Caloocan and Quezon City targeting areas where street children are known to stay.

Undersecretary Dolores Quiambao, the member of Metro Manila's street children, or 9,000 for Luistro says "there could be more."

Thirteen other pushcarts will also be brought to classes in other Metro Manila cities, said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

Built and redesigned by DepEd's engineering office, each Kariton classroom will be stocked with first aid kits from the Department of Health and books and other learning materials from DepEd.

DTC volunteers and trained teachers will take turns manning the classrooms, said Luistro, adding to the mission with a special curriculum developed specifically for street children.

Basic lessons

"It starts where the kids are. There are basic lessons like how to take a bath, the proper way of eating. It's really student-centered," said Luistro in an interview.

Problem area: Raw kids. DepEd's equivalency tests for their eventual and ideal enrollment in regular public schooling.

Luistro notes what earlier DepEd has existing programs for those out of school, even educators has acutely been focused on providing for those

SHIFTING TO A

Protective dad hurts daughter's classmate, faces child abuse raps

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OVERLY protective father was charged on Friday with child abuse before the city prosecutor's office after he allegedly hurt and threatened his daughter's 9-year-old classmate at an elementary school in Manila.

The Manila Police District-Station Desk (MPD-SDEU) lodged a complaint of physical injuries in relation to violation of the public act 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Act against Ansel Morales, the father of a grade 4 pupil in the Holy Heart Christian Academy along Dakota Street in Sta. Cruz.

The charge stemmed from allegations by his daughter's classmate that Morales had on Thursday allegedly thrown an umbrella at him, kicked, slapped and threatened him after he accidentally shoved the girl during recess.

MPD-WCPD head Chief Insp. Janice Arnaiz said the boy said that the incident happened at around 1 p.m. outside the school. Morales had gone to the school to complain to teachers how the boy had allegedly mauled his daughter. The girl then told him what the girl had told him.

"Morales was talking with a teacher at the school when he spotted the boy demanding the chair. He allegedly shouted at his daughter's classmate and hurled an umbrella at him hitting the boy on the leg," Arnaiz said, adding that the teacher tried to stop Morales, reminding him he was speaking to a child, but he insisted on continuing the boy.

Based on the boy's statement, Morales also threw him on the water and started kicking him. "He kicked me on my elbow, hand and knee. When I was already at the foot of the stairs, he slapped me hard on the left side of my face and told me not to go to school anymore or he would take me to the barangay," the grade 4 pupil recalled.

Arnaiz told the investigators that when she asked the boy if he knows why his classmate's father had hurt him, the boy said, "I shoved his daughter but it was an accident."

The 42-year-old mother told the investigators that Morales was angry at her son because his daughter had told him that the boy had mauled her chest during lunchtime.

"I asked my son if he knew what symptom meant but he only gave me a puzzled look and asked me back what it meant," she pointed out.

She claimed that Morales intended to hurt her son further by throwing an umbrella at him again but for the boy's timecoded and asked the adults to leave.

"My son is not a child. He (Morales) should not have hurt him. He is already an adult. He is a large man. What if my boy had fallen down the stairs or what if he had killed him even by accident? Would he be able to replace my child's life?" she asked.

Avoid too much drinking, Lim urges Tondo Sto. Niño revelers

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim has appealed to Tondo residents to avoid as much as possible too much drinking in today's celebration of the feast of Sto. Niño, which is annually marred by high incidence of violence among drunken revelers.

Lim reminded residents in the area that the traditional religious celebration "must not be marred by petty fights sometimes leading to fatalities and even tragedy," adding that the revelry should be peaceful and orderly.

He said that while there are always drinking sessions to mark the celebration of the feast of the Sto. Niño, huge drinkers should ensure that they know their limitations.

"Tama po ay sa atin na maging happy ang araw ng Sto. Niyo pero dapat po nga siyang huwag na po tayong umuwi ng uhid. Uwi na po kayo sa inyo ehemente and just to our heads. It would even be much better if we do not drink at all," Lim pointed out, asking his appeal to Tondo residents.

He proposed that money for entertaining drinks be spent instead for food and other forms of entertainment like videoke sessions or parlor games, which are "better and more pleasant alternatives for drinking."

The mayor directed Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Rita Gutierrez to ensure the safety and security of the feast of the Sto. Niño in troubled Tondo.

Gutierrez said that some 600 MPD personnel, including members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, will be deployed in the Tondo area to guard against unruly revelers and ensure that the fiesta celebrations will be orderly and peaceful as ordered.

Police checkpoints

Police checkpoints will be set up in strategic locations of the city while Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) personnel will be dispatched to help ease traffic along Road 10 as well as Jose Abad Santos, Tayuman, Perdi, Reina and Velarde streets, all in Tondo.

Annually the celebration of the feast of the Sto. Niño, celebrated during the third Sunday of January is marred by occurrence of shooting and stabbing incidents as well as serious involving drunken residents.

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DEVOTEES raise replicas of the image of Santo Niño for blessing after a Mass Saturday at the Sto. Niño Chapel in Tondo, Manila. ALREX ALMO

Woman jogger run over, then stabbed dead

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A WOMAN believed to be a jogger was reportedly run over with a car and stabbed to death early Saturday allegedly by her companion in Manila.

Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section head Chief Insp. Joselito de Leverapa said that the still unidentified fatality could be a Korean tourist based on her features.

De Leverapa described the victim to be between 20 and 25 years old, five-footer inches tall, slender-sized, slim, fair-skinned, and was clad in a gray jacket and black dust worn over a pair of jogging pants.

The victim, he said, was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at the Ospital ng Maynila from three stab wounds in the chest and nape and head wounds apparently from having been stunned and run over by a car.

SPO2 Charles John Duran, case investigator, said that the incident happened at around 4 a.m. along the Roxas Boulevard service road in front of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas building in Malate.

Duran revealed that before the incident, the woman had been jogging in the area followed by a black car driven by a foreign-looking man.

"The criminal was frequently seen by people in the area to be running but times a week between 2 and 3 a.m. usually ended by now. That has been the scenario for a month," he said.

However, yesterday morning, the man seen by a witness arguing with the driver of the car who had gotten off the vehicle, drew several minutes the visible irked. Driver boarded his car, revved up the engine and sped, and crushed the woman.

While the woman was lying on the road, the accused boarded the front portion of the car, the driver was observed getting off his seat and taking something from his vehicle.

After a few seconds, he approached the wounded woman and started striking her chest with an object before getting on the car and again running over the woman before speeding away.

SPO1 Dennis Jason dela Torre, who assisted Duran in the investigation, said that the victim was found the body wounded woman and immediately brought her to the nearest hospital to die to save her but the effort proved futile. The body was brought to the St. Peter funeral parlor by anybody and relationship.

Duran, however, said that eyewitnesses recovered the kitchen knife, used by the suspect to stab the woman with, and a mobile phone owned by the victim.

"We are calling through the security camera footages which could identify the driver of the car and are attempting to access records on her mobile phone for her identification," he pointed out, adding that they already have a lead to the killer based on account given by witnesses.

CUSTOMIZED EQUIPMENT FOR BANGKAL CLEANUP
First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) project site manager Manilo Mikaya (center) and Ron Chua Wee Seng Inc., project manager, inspect the Multi-Phase Extraction (MPE) system which will be used in the recovery and treatment of petroleum leakage, as well as the start of FPIC's long-term environmental remediation of Barangay Bangkal in Makati. Seng is a US-born and company at Seng.

Las Piñas enforces plastics ban

By Mike Navales

MAKING a bad from the successful policy of neighboring Muntinlupa last year, the Las Piñas city government has deployed environmental monitors to enforce its ban on plastic and polystyrene packaging.

In a statement, Mayor Vergel Aguilar said the "Anti-Plastic Police" would be making rounds in community stores, markets and business establishments to ensure that huge stocks of plastic or polystyrene containers like Styrofoam are not used as packaging materials for goods.

"We must take definite and hidden steps now starting with no-plastic policy in all markets, retail stores and in the house, both to maintain non-biodegradable wastes in order to save and protect the environment," Aguilar said.

The mayor blamed the indiscriminate dumping of plastics in the city as among the causes that contribute to the decline of water quality at Las Piñas and Zapote River.

While the measures have been announced, the implementation through the project of Aguilar's vice, former Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, the official said that some residents still throw their waste along the streets.

Making environment protection among his top priorities this year, Aguilar instructed barangay officials to organize teams within their jurisdictions to conduct regular monitoring, cleanup and clearing activities on parks, markets and similar public places.

Aside from public places, the mayor similarly directed the barangays to monitor water ways and creeks, and open spaces as well to ensure the well-being of residents and space them from potential flash floods and spread of illness.

Aguilar also tapped barangay environment committees to coordinate with the local government's environment and sanitation center and the Clean and Green Council.

Last year, the city council passed Ordinance No. 2056-11, which banned the use of plastic bags and polystyrene packs in all commercial establishments doing business in Las Piñas. The ban took effect on Jan. 2.

City has new tack to get folks reading

By Kristine Felicia Hargonay

LAS PIÑAS, Philippines — City dwellers may soon have a new reason to visit the public library.

Instead, several of these outdated books will serve as repository for supplementary reading materials which in turn will be found in the city's new library Hub in Barangay Pulanglupa.

The hub, which aims to encourage reading among students, will provide them the additional library services that were restricted books placed on shelves and unorganized by subjects or author.

The new strategy will therefore allow individuals to borrow more materials than the old rules allowed.

"We believe that reading is the foundation of learning. (That's why we came up with) something (new)," Pinaglabas Mayor Imelda Aguilar, the city's Department of Education division head, said.

Although the conversion of the two rooms in the Valenzuela City Ambulance which will serve as the new library has already been completed, the hub is expected to operate later within the month.

Aside from a storage area, it will feature a reading area for browsing library works and reference books, and a place where several activities, such as storytelling, can be conducted.

It will also have a broadband-connected computer unit for enjoying area.

According to local officials, the hub will be supervised by a trained librarian.

'Kariton Klasrum' out on Metro streets soon

From page A10

in formal schools.

"Dapat (the solution is simple: To take care of the youth, but nutrition has been mainly on children already in school. And the President (Aquino) always says we should also look at those who are left behind. They are those we hope to reach," Luistro said in his speech.

While Deped has yet to allocate a specific budget for the program, Luistro expressed confidence that funding will come even if "we don't see it yet in the GAA (General Appropriations Act or the national budget)."

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman also said on the launch that her department will track street children to be enlisted in the Kariton Klasrum program and include them in the conditional cash transfer program.

Under the program, the poorest Filipino families are given regular sums subsidy if they comply with certain requirements, including keeping their children in school and having regular medical checks at public health centers.

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METRO BRIEF

Authorized AMO course

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association (PCA) Marikina Valley Chapter, in cooperation with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), will be holding the two-day Authorized Managing Officer's (AMO) Course on Feb. 3-4, 2012, at the Marikina Convention Center in Marikina City. Registration fee are P3,000 for PCA members, P3,500 for non-PCA members and P4,000 for outside regions (PCA or non-PCA members). The AMO Course completion is one requirement for the renewal of every contractor's PCAB license registration, whether renewal or original issuance. The 16-hour AMO Course will cover latest and regulations pertinent to the construction industry as set by the National Building Code, the Labor Code, the Government Procurement Reform Act, the Internal Revenue Code, the Build-Operate-Transfer Law and the Local Government Code. For more information, interested parties may contact the PCA Marikina Valley Chapter Secretariat Ms. Cherrie Evangelista Sun (cell phone # 09088606700 or 09253443537) or engineer Rizzi Singco (02) 990-1000 or at 09228131496.

Syrian tanks attack town; Arab League fears slide into civil war

HOMS—Armor in Syria cut at least 15 lives on Friday and troops backed by tanks attacked Zabadani, a town near the border with Lebanon, an opposition leader said, in the first big military assault since Arab League monitors arrived last month.

The League chief said he feared a 10-month-old struggle to topple President Bashar al-Assad could slide into civil war.

The Arab League mission in Syria has been struggling to prove days, with some of its observers starting to leave in protest at continuing violence directed against antigovernment protesters by security forces loyal to Assad.

"Tanks are bombarding the town and have entered the mountains, but they are being met with resistance," Ammar al-Loh'wani, an opposition leader from Zabadani who fled to Jordan two weeks ago, told Reuters. "The Free Syrian Army (army defectors) has a strong presence in the area."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said seven civilians were shot dead, four of them in the centre city of Homs. Three others died, including two women in the town of Zabadani.

A total of five security personnel, including a lieutenant colonel, were killed and 11 wounded by "armed terrorist groups" in two separate attacks in Homs and the countryside around Damascus, the state news agency Sana reported.

"The people want the downfall of the regime," shouted a crowd in the port of Latakia as one of several anti-Assad demonstrations that erupted after Friday Muslim prayers.

Syrians have kept up a campaign of protest for months despite a crackdown by the authorities that the United States says has killed more than 5,000 people.

Sana, including army desertions, have taken up arms in recent months. Syrian authorities say foreign-backed "terrorists" have killed 2,000 soldiers and police since the revolt began.

Armed clashes, now powerful enough to be described as a civil war, have become a daily occurrence in Syria.

Sana said the army had begun operations to "pursue armed terrorist groups" in Homs province, a stronghold of

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

US to restore full relations with Burma

By Staff Writer Lee Myers and Seth Mydans

WASHINGTON—The United States moved to restore full diplomatic relations with Burma (Myanmar) on Friday, rewarding the sweeping political and economic changes that the country's new civilian government has made, including a cease-fire with ethnic rebels and, only hours before, the release of hundreds of political prisoners.

Freeing the prisoners, which President Barack Obama praised as a "substantial step forward for democratic reform," was one of the most significant gestures yet by Burma's new civilian government to address international concerns about the country's repressive history, which led to decades of diplomatic and economic isolation.

Among 651 prisoners given amnesty on Friday were leaders of the brutally repressed student protests in 1988, a former prime minister, Khin Nyunt, ousted in an internal purge in 2004, and monks and others arrested in antigovernment protests in 2007 that were known as the "saffron revolution." A senior state department official in Washington described Burma's move as Friday as the largest single release of political prisoners in Asia's history.

The administration's reciprocal announcement in the latest in a series of countries moves that have significantly eased tensions between the United States and Burma. The diplomatic engagement—which could have seemed unthinkable a year ago...now appears to be accelerating, although he and other officials stopped short of calling it irreversible.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who visited the country for the first time only six months ago, said in Washington, "This is a momentous day for the diverse people of Burma, and we will continue to support them and their efforts to implement their government to take bold steps."

A renewed ambassador between the two countries has the potential to energize the Obama administration's efforts to refocus its foreign policy at a time when China's influence is expanding. The move was could enhance trade and help bolster Burma into regional alliances unpublished in the West.

Since taking office last March, the country's president, Thein Sein, has overseen a raft of changes that appear to indicate a new willingness to end military rule for the first time since a coup in 1962.

He has sought to reform the economy, allow political nonprotests and end the country's economic and diplomatic dependence on China, its huge neighbor to the north. In a move that prompts a fat broader shift in policies, his government halted work in September on a $3.6-billion dam under construction on the Irrawaddy River by a Chinese state company.

The United States move fully will unfreeze relations with Burma, so it did not the years with Iran, Cuba and North Korea, but it downgraded relations and withdrew its ambassador after elections in 1999. Those elections were won by the party of the main opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, although power was usurped by the military government, which instead crushed dissent and put her under house arrest. Subsequent administrations have done weighted sanctions on most trade with the area.

The Obama administration is not yet considering lifting most bans, but Clinton announced that it would soon nominate an ambassador and invite Burma to send one to Washington. She pledged other actions in response to continued reforms, though she did not spell them out.

Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won most seats. Those in the country's newly built capital, Naypyidaw, passed him to follow through with the second, entire, which he appears to be doing. Since her visit, the government abolished special elections on April 1 to fill 46 vacant parliamentary seats. When the East Indian area in 1990, Suu Kyi and her party will be allowed to seek elected office.

The prisoner release was said late critical benchmark that administration officials had touched closely before announcing Friday's step. Only two months ago, Thein Sein denied the existence of political prisoners in the country, even though there have been several smaller releases since he took office. Privately, however, he indicated a willingness to release more, although only after a deliberate legal and political process, she officials said.

Even so, the scope of Friday's release appeared to catch many by surprise.

New York Times News Service

ALUNG SAN Suu Kyi on pg. 4 photo →

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Business Features Editor: Margie Quiogue-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Boys who 'would get nowhere' doing pretty well

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ROGNACIA Tan (left), Levi Russell Tan-Ong, Wilkerson Ll. Philip Cheng and Kenneth Yu

SCREEN shot of "Wildfire," the game that won an award from Microsoft's contest in Poland

TWO years ago, a group of Xavier School "boys" already studying in different colleges in Metro Manila designed a simple video game called "Wildfire" in their bedrooms.

Monday later, the team, who called themselves "By Implication," were receiving a check for $25,000 (P1.08 million) in winnings of the Microsoft Imagine Cup game design competition.

Today, the original crew of boys, together with a few others of who know the genius, seem to show the country and the rest of the world that they were not one-hit wonders.

"Before joining the competition, we were always into games," says Philip Cheng, one of the original members, now in Poland for the group's first 12 months of fame.

One look at the members of the team and the impression one gets is unmistakable: They look like the kind of people who, as kids—like many others in their generation—spent countless hours in front of their TV screens with Playstation controllers in hand playing Final Fantasy or Tekken.

Yet, there were the kids that were told by their parents and teachers that their obsession with video games "would never take them anywhere."

"But after Wildfire, we sensed that we could pursue this seriously," the boys in a recent interview.

Using their prize money as seed capital, the team put up their own game design and development company called, and you guessed it, By Implication.

The company has all the makings of a great start-up narratives. Offices set up in various "superposed" rooms in their respective homes, a crew of bright minds (and we mean that in the best way possible), and a shared devotion to their craft. Some may find it strange, that call it passion.

They don't operate the way a traditional corporation does either. "We consider ourselves an oligarchy," says Levi Tan-Ong, one of the few on the team who works for the company full time. He says the opinion of each member of the team is just as important as everyone else's. This reminds the team that before they were ever an corporation with a start-up venture, they were friends first.

"Growing up, games were not just fun for us. Movies, novels, these are now considered great works of literature and art. But when these first came out, no one really thought of them that way," Cheng says.

"We think video games are going in the same direction. This is the medium of our time," he says.

Their first project, Wildfire, was the group's way of promoting the spirit of volunteerism during the Ondoy and Pepeng disasters of 2009—in its PC version.

In the game, the player's character rescues around a town trying to recruit people to help in solving certain problems. There tasks, of course, were in line with solving real-world problems. Development Goals set by the Philippines.

"The game was a reflection of a solution to disasters that is already in place in the Philippines. When the moment in Japan hit, every one was saying 'pray for Japan,' but in the Philippines, whenever disasters hide, the first thing people want to know is how they can help," says Estrada. Yu, the group's master tekhne member) who handles the "business" end of operations.

The game can be downloaded for free at wildfire.bymplication.com.

Since Wildfire, and since graduating from college, the team says it has wanted to move on to bigger and more profitable things.

"We are a software design and development company at this point," Cheng says. He adds the company has started to accept outsourced work, focusing up games and doing design work for other foreign firms.

While this keeps the company from spending more than to covering their own games, he says: "This is what pays the bills."

The time they spend not doing other people's work, they devote to projects are fortunately feeding to yourself.

The company's first game for the Apple iOS mobile-operating system is called Bounce, a first-person game where a character runs down a hallway, trying to dodge various obstacles. The goal is to reach the end of the room, or fail as possible. Try

BOYS A4

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TV5 to invest more in rescue equipment

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN a media person sees someone in distress, what should he do? Just write a story, etc, shoot a photo or video, or actually do something about the situation?

For the people behind TV5's Rescuel, the answer is clear. Something has to be done, preferably in situations where lives are in peril. That, however, is the hard part.

According to Jurbi Cojuangco Taduran, head of news and information at TV5, the network wanted to live up to its catchphrase: Bigo sa balita—aksiyon! Beyond just news—action!

She relates that the idea to have a team properly equipped to conduct rescue types of rescue and related operations was mainly inspired by the aftermath of Typhoon Ondoy in 2009, when thousands were left dead and rendered homeless.

Taduran likewise expresses concern that the rescue crew they could not do anything besides keep the camera rolling to capture the damage to lives and properties that Typhoon Ondoy left in its wake. While the victims grieved and mourned, Rescuel's rescue crew were unable to provide any real help.

"We had to think of a way to deliver real help," she says. "We really wanted to help, as we asked the reporters who went out to locate [property owner] permission to enter [the area]."

Rescuel anchor and Rescuel1 team leader Mody Boforon says he had no companion him, still with the first aid and rescue procedures that he had previously learned in a Philippine

MOMMY! Rescuel1 rescues a baby in a flood-stricken area

RESCUE Boforon leads the arms and rescuers of Rescuel1

QUICK! The Rescuel1 team undergoing a chopper exercise (inset)

THE Rescuel1 team undergoing chopper exercise (inset)

'SAVE! Ehrenstein personnel carried to safety

ATTENDING on the wounds of the victim

QUICK! Rescuel1 team members undergoing rescue exercises

Chinese gift-giving and a few classic symbols

Tess and gloria by Ma. Isabel Salcedo-Fenoles
Contributor

NOT ALL Filipinos are necessarily interested to go into details of the Chinese horoscope nor are they inclined to find out what the Year of the Dragon means.

However, many good intentioned Filipino friends to greet their Chinese friends or business colleagues a hearty "Kung Hei Fat Choi" and show sincere interest.

If you have no time to study all the meanings used in Chinese culture or are not inclined to see the horoscope symbols, following are four notable classical design elements that you may want to keep in mind when shopping for a proper gift:

CHINESE New Year will be celebrated on Jan. 23 this year, another big weekend for Filipinos.

Lotus flower symbolizes purity

You see them a lot in Chinese gardens and paintings. The lotus flower rises above muddy waters and is considered a symbol of purity. For example, it could signify upliftment in the midst of a corrupt society.

Peony is for good fortune

Different colors have different degrees of importance and combining peonies with other flowers also provides additional meaning.

In general, you can give peonies or gifts with peony symbols to wish your colleague good fortune and honor. It also represents feminine beauty and when in full bloom, the peony is also the symbol of peace.

Fish equates to wealth

This is a symbol closely tied to the accumulation of money or affluence. Aside from any fish, there are other varieties that symbolize prosperity. You may notice that in certain Chinese restaurants, a specific type of fish is kept and displayed by the entrance...this is for good luck and good business.

Crane is for longevity

Go ahead and wish your business partners a long life as that is considered a blessing. In the Philippines, Chinese and Filipinos alike commonly eat noodles to wish for a long life.

Ducks are for a good marriage

Two ducks in a lotus pond symbolize harmonious, faithful and happy marriage. Thus, it is an excellent choice for husband and wife and affirm pivots in newlyweds as well. Note that mandarin ducks supposedly do not get a new partner even after a mate dies.

Just remember that the Chinese put a lot of importance on symbolism and meaning. Thus, you need to exercise a little care in choosing your gifts. It could spell the difference between a lasting working relationship versus a short one.

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REGISTER TODAY, the 59th Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity is open for delegate registration. Taking place from 17-23 June in Cannes, France, delegates wishing to attend can now register online at www.canneslions.com.

Anyone wishing to attend Cannes Lions can choose from 3-day, 4-day and full week registration packages. Deliberately student and young creative packages are also available. All festival attendees are eligible for the lowest available rates on accommodation with the online accommodation guide offering possibilities for all budgets and preferences; it can be viewed at http://www.canneslions.com/the_festival/accommodation.cfm.

Education group expands in the Asia-Pacific region

THE LARGEST private tertiary education group in Asia Pacific, RaffleshEducation Corp. (REC), reports further expansion in the region as it continues to build on its presence in the region.

Despite the impact of foreign exchange translation loss as a result of the strengthening Singapore dollar against regional currencies, and the costs incurred due to the group's expansion into emerging markets, the group posted a revenue of Sing$ 69.1 (US$ 54.8) million in 2011, and is poised to have the current financial turmoil with confidence.

"We are armed with a sound and asset-backed balance sheet," states REC chief and CEO Chew Hua Seng. "We are confident that our new colleges will contribute to the group's short-to-medium gestation period, and provide additional capital for reinvestment into the group's education business."

Established by chair and CEO Chew Hua Seng in 1990 in Singapore with Private Education System (PES) as its product, the company has grown to operate 30 colleges in 10 cities across 14 countries that include Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and now, the Philippines.

In 2011, REC set up its own first campus in the Philippines, Raffles Design Institute Manila (RDIM) in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. RDIM brings REC's valuable international expertise and perspective to Filipino students to empower and enhance their competitiveness in the global design industry.

The brand new campus has rolled out four programs for a start last July 2011: two-year, Full-time, advanced diploma courses in fashion design, fashion marketing and management, graphic design, and interior design.

Taught by an international academic team comprising of industry practitioners from the UK, US, and the Philippines, the programs at RDIM are designed to equip aspiring designers with the essential technical and business knowledge and skills for the global scene in a four week program, with the option to top up their studies with the Raffles network of colleges in 14 countries.

"Comprehensive skill and knowledge outcomes and employability of students are emphasized in Raffles' curriculum, as are creative and analytical approaches that encourage individual judgment and self-awareness," states RDIM college director Darlene Lim.

The Raffles International Admissions Office (RIO) was also recently established in RDIM, serving as a convenient gateway for Filipino students intending to further their studies to overseas Raffles campuses like Australia, Singapore and China, and to gain an internationally recognised bachelor and master's degrees in the disciplines of design, commerce, infocom, biomedical sciences and psychology.

REC marked another milestone with the establishment of its first self-accruing university, Raffles University Iskandar (RUI) in Malaysia. Currently operating at its leased premises in Iskandar, RUI is expected to see its first intake in April 2012, and its 65 acre multi-faculty campus in Iskandar Malaysia is expected to be in operation by 2013. RUI will offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the areas of business, technology, arts and design, education, health, and social sciences.

The development of RUI, along with the Raffles Millennium University in Mumbai, India, established 2009) raises the profile of REC from a higher education provider to that of a full-fledged university group.

"The development of the Raffles University validates the group's academic credibility and reputation, and its growth from a humble fashion college in Singapore to a reputable pan-Asian university group," states chair Chew Hua Seng.

Through enhancing and unlocking the value of some of its assets by reinvestment, REC is developing a sustainable education growth model that will provide synergies, resilience and steady growth for the years to come, as its strategy of geographic diversification starts to bear fruit. REC holds a recurring income model in line with its aim to become a sustainable education enterprise.

"REC's investments in Asia's emerging markets reinforce the group's ability to engage, operate and expand into new markets," Chew Hua Seng reveals. "Our footprint of colleges in Asia Pacific puts us in an enviable position to fulfill the demand for education from Asia's growing middle class and large youthful population."

With its knowledge position and enhanced platform across Asia, REC is well positioned to benefit as it builds on its existing colleges, expands its college network, and strengthens its academic credibility. (Visit www.raffles-design-institute.com.ph)

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Sunday BIZ

Taking note of what's best and worst in a resort

Text and photos by Cris Ernst B. Luis
Inquirer Visayas

Copy best practices, execute them better and leave out bad ones

MACREDOL, Southern Leyte—Couple Robert and Babes Castellanes love everything about travel and adventure. They take note of what's the best and worst parts of every place in terms of food, accommodation and service.

That habit became useful in 2007 when they built Kuting Reef Resort and Spa in Barangay Amontoon, Macrohon town, in Southern Leyte.

"Finding nice travels we would often see things that make us comment, 'Oy, kaya natin yan! (We can do that!)' We told ourselves that we should copy the best practices, execute them better and leave out the bad ones," says Robert, chief executive officer of Opulence Assets Inc. which operates Kuting Reef.

Robert brought the three-hectare property in 1999 when he was looking for the family's vacation spot. Although he was born in Manila, he felt closer to home in the place. His parents though are from Hinunga town in southern Leyte's Panaon Island.

He named the resort Kuting Reef after the sites where it is located. Kuting (left) is the locals' name for frequent visitors, Filipinos used for "kiwas," but locals say kiwases used to frequent the beach several years ago.

A RARE luxury in the province—infinity pool

There is no white-sand beach, and the Castellanes couple make up by building an infinity pool facing the sea.

Resort beauty of a hermaids grass-covered knoll, planted with coconut trees now 30 to 40 years old. It has 30 rooms—deluxe cabana, premier cabana, suites and nipa—with prices ranging from P950 to P4,200 for an overnight stay.

An "honesty" store allows guests to pick any item, pay for it and get their change from a box of paper bills and coins.

Business is booming, says Robert.

Southern Leyte does not have any facility that Kuting Reef does not offer. Local tourists from the neighboring provinces of Leyte and Samar fuel the growth of the resort.

"Families from the provincial educated or travel in Cebu or Bohol to hold their reunions and gathering have drawn Kuting Reef to its alternative. They get almost the same facility and service and they spend less on transportation," he says.

Kuting Reef is strategically located along the province's tourism corridor where most dive resorts are found. It is barely an hour's ride by boat to the historic island of Limasawa.

Wish Southern Leyte's tourism campaign to become the playground center of Eastern Visayas in 2013, Robert expects to see more local tourists visiting his resort.

Robert is also president of the 13-month-old Southern Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SLCCI), a group of businessmen and entrepreneurs seeking to assist the government in improving the social and economic situation of the province.

Since 2008, Robert says he has seen the growth of the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) market. He even considers this market the resort's bread and butter.

The resort can accommodate an average of 300 weekly guests for MICE events. It offers water sport activities, including snorkeling, and package tours to nearby sites.

A civil engineer, Robert had worked for both private and public sectors for more than 20 years. He spent 15 years working for a multinational company before he was appointed assistant secretary for project planning and development of the Department of Transportation and Communications, a post he held from 2005 to 2008.

Robert says he has banked on the knowledge and skills he learned from his corporate and government experiences. His wife is into interior designing and event management.

They have 40 employees who are all residents of Southern Leyte.

Believing in social responsibility to the community, the resort recently formed Kuting Kids who are trained in cultural dancing and singing to entertain the guests. The children are beneficiaries of the resort's feeding program and community services, which include donating school supplies and giving weekly school allowance.

It will now launch local hot-spring resorts' massage and therapy skills.

"I always tell my staff that facilities can be easily duplicated. Service will distinguish us from the rest," Robert says.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

FRANCISCO "Paqui" Ortigas III (L) right, Sarah Madrigal Bayot-Ortigas

The true story behind Susie's story

In the midst of the much-talked about concubinage case filed by Susie Madrigal Ortigas against her husband Paqui, friends reveal the cost of emancipation

LAST WEEKEND, at the wedding of the scions of two of the country's wealthiest families—Chris Pineda (of the Madrigal clan) and Bianca Zobel (eldest daughter of Hugo and Marlowe Zobel)—in the Zobel estate in Calatagan, Batangas, people walked up to Susie Ortigas to pay her a compliment—"You're blooming!"

"But would he smile in any occasion's tux, but to watch it win extra sweet music, Susie certainly looked at being in a long battle she should really pass. Rich, or not, and glamorous makeup.

There is bigger compliment usually followed, coming from a few friends—"Finally, you're unstamped! You're doing women empowerment."

The next day, Sunday, began as little the news on the front page that Sarah Madrigal Bayot-Ortigas has sued her husband, former ambassador to Mexico Francisco M. Ortigas III, for concubinage after the latter allegedly shacked up with her best friend, Ma. Antonia Lagcao (a libelista).

Infidelities

The 71-page complaint affidavit filed last month with the Pasig prosecutor's office also detailed what Bayot, or Susie, as she's known to kin and friends, claimed were her husband's infidelities involving other women, including the household.

"For marriage, contrary to how it is perceived in high society, has been marked by cases of infidelities, harassment, imposed psychological and verbal abuse, all courtesy of my husband, respondent Paqui."

What was apparent to the Catholique wedding was that "high society" has known all along the state of the Ortigas' marriage, particularly Paqui's alleged relationship with Susie's best friend. They were just wondering, as if waiting with bated breath, when or if Susie would confront the issue of her marriage. So when they finally learned that Susie has filed the case, even before Batanes could break the story, some of them called it an act of emancipation.

Since Inquirer ran the front-page story last Sunday, Susie has been deluged with text messages asking if she was all right.

"Why, are people asking me if I'm okay?" a high-spirited Susie asked a friend. "I'm not only okay, I'm very well."

It's not surprising that people are worried about Susie's well-being. Her only child she faces the alleged serious abuse of her marriage, she also broke a high society taboo: as revealed, especially our reliable mistress who are concerned.

Even in today's permissive age, spouses—especially women—keep their battered to themselves. You can imagine the pressure to suppress is even greater on high-society women, especially those married to high-society men. In this case, two of the country's wealthiest clans are involved.

Susie's suit is not only a taboo-breaker; it is also a first—in this country, at least. A first, even if only for the decibels raised by the scandal, and the lurid details of the allegations.

Surely, concubinage or infidelity is nothing unique to ordinary or economic class. And well-known patriarchs ranging around with the household is nothing new. Manila high society is, in fact, replete with stories of those—of this magnate, with a socially visible wife, who is a "dirty killer," or of this tycoon conveniently placed in front of the house couple with the cradle device.

Lawyer Katrina Legarda said as at one dinner: "Don't you know the highest incidence of incest is found, not really in poor communities, but in Forbes?"

But then, their complaints or cases are not filed with the prosecutor's office—unlike Susie's. What stands out in her affidavit, once one goes past the details of

THEY'RE C3

9 days to go, Shalani is nervous but happy; Penk designs masterpiece cake

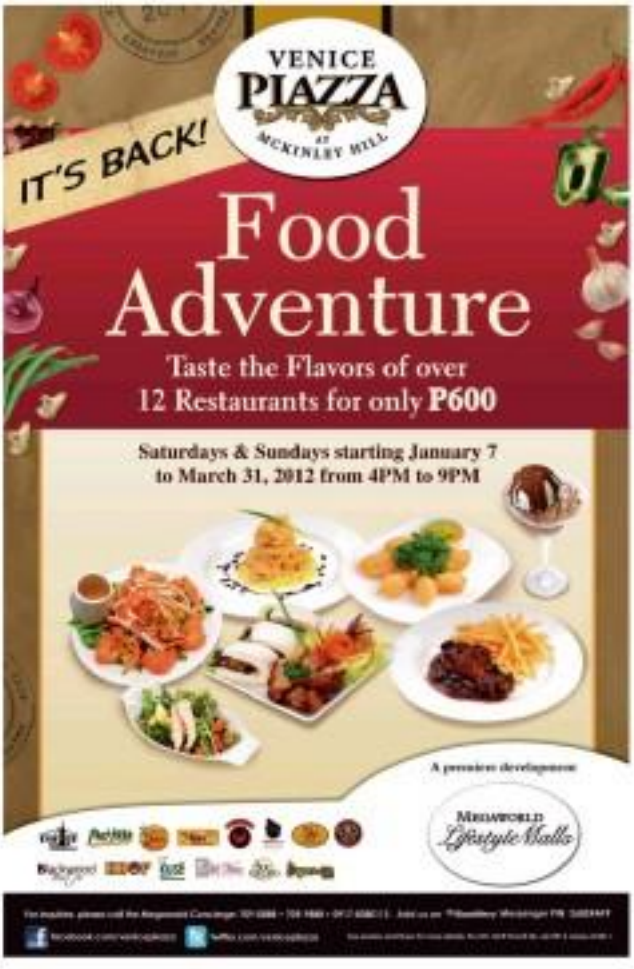
NINE DAYS to go before her wedding to Rep. Roman Romulo, Valenzuela congressional Shalani Soledad says she's a little nervous because "there's still so much that needs to be done."

But—"I'm also excited and happy," she adds.

The two politicians who have become the season's poster couple for romance will wed Jan. 22 at St. Benedict Church in Wargrove in Ste. Rosa, Laguna.

TURN TO

PENK Cheng's sketch of the Roman-Shalani wedding cake



Friends since 14, now husband and wife

THE BRIDE and groom, both in Pablo Calzalog ensembles, embrace after the rites.

ON JULY 8, 2011, on a cold and rainy Friday afternoon, high school classmates Bojo Bonifacio and Denise Capili were married at Villa Gumamela, Tagaytay. They exchanged personalized vows at a garden ceremony witnessed by 150 of their closest family and friends, officiated by Pastor Ariel Marquez.

The bride wore a white silk duchess gown with French lace corset and the groom wore a dark gray suit with a black tuxedo, both by Pablo Calzalog. The color theme was light gray, black and cherry poppies, livened up with shades of pink and red bouquets.

The couple have been friends since they were both 14 years old, but began their romantic relationship only after graduating from university. Bojo is a youth pastor at Victory Greenhills, and Denise is LOOB Magazine's associate editor.

After the ceremony, guests were treated to their favorite and a six-course dinner by 6 by Constant to Please Restaurant's glasshouse, filled with black to lilies, white and light pink flowers, and pillar candles. The simple and relaxed reception highlights were the love messages and parents' speeches, photograph slideshow of Bojo Dy and same-day-wedding recap edit by Bob Sinclair.

FLOWER GIRL Gabbie in a light-gray tulle dress with peach rosette headband

THE COUPLE with the bride's mother Tess Capili and the groom's parents Alma and Fortie Bonifacio

LOOB Magazine friends Tom Lopez-Cruz, Kat Cruz, Carmencita Gonzon, Stef Cabal and Kelly Wee

ALL-WHITE fondant cake with brushes and succulent details inspired by the bridal bouquet and garden ceremony

'Some people get on your nerves; they will be there until you die, let it be'

Project distills lessons from old people about how to live fully

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Barbosa-Garbulla

NEW YORK Times recently published Joan Brady's "Divinely Experts Share Life Advice in Council Project," about Gottell's Legacy Project, a study that began in 2004 and pioneered by Rad Hilleiner, a professor of human development in the university's College of Human Ecology and professor of personal psychology in its Weill Cornell Medical College.

In 2004, Hilleiner started collecting the practical advice on living from America's elders. Using different methods, his research team systematically gathered nearly 1,000 responses to the question: "What are the most important lessons you have learned over the course of your life?"

Brady's piece began:

"At 17, I wrote a speech titled, 'When You Come to the End of Your Days, Will You Be Able to Write Your Own Epitaph?' If we follow up approach to life I adopted after my mother's untimely death I have chosen at age 49: I choose to live each day as if it could be my last—but with a watchful eye on the future in case it won't... I find joy each day in mundane things: tea, silvery overhead of rainbows and sunsets, an almost on a flower, crows chasing a hawk, a mosquito bite, a child at play, an act of kindness toward a stranger."

Common thread

Her words resonated to me because I had also tried to live with that attitude every day. Perhaps because we share the experience of losing but a beloved parent much too soon, we have a common thread. Knowing fully well the history of life and the rules of each thing we have a sense of urgency to pursue our dreams, knowing the importance of living fully pre-

sent in every moment.

In the Legacy Project I found a treasure trove of articles which Hilleiner had distilled into a book. One article tackled the very important subject of how to live positively each day.

Hilleiner outlined four strategies to staying positive 24/7.

One is to eliminate unnecessary worrying. If we only could do this! I love all over again, they would take back those hours spent in ceaseless worrying about the future. One 83-year-old said, "Don't believe that worrying will resolve anything. It doesn't. Stop it."

Two, focus on the short term, rather than the long. To stay positive, focus on the immediate future rather than on the endless what-if's. "One day at a time" has proven to be the best mantra, and believing that "this too shall pass" has proven true in one of the best antidotes against worry.

Three, acceptance. Acceptance is not passive but rather something that is actively fostered. Actively working toward acceptance of problems and limitations is one of the critical keys to positive living. The study cited Victor Chan, a 98-year-old man whose favorite phrase is "let it be." She suggested regularly pushing away negative thoughts and people in the system.

The wise sages said, "Some people get on your nerves and they will be there until you die, let it be."

Positive attitude

Four, and this is one of my favorites (know I don't focus on the big picture—I see a cat, a new human, a new job, a designer shoe)—see the details. The elders say that a positive attitude depends on thinking small—a child's smile, a warm cup of coffee on a rainy day, an awesome sunset, a rainbow out of the blue, a breakfast eating friend's pearly white over the radio.

The important lesson is to never take things for granted. It's often the ordinary joys of every day that make life worth living. "It's the little things that bring joy to your daily life, so make sure to savor them as they arrive."

Fifth, things in life are cosmic, folly. For many of the respondents, this was a valuable lesson, one they said they wished they had learned in their 30s. Doing so, they realized, would have given them so many more decades to fully enjoy life and live positively each day.

Those lessons were all put into sharp focus in a warm and brilliant film coming to theaters this week. Last night, I had the privilege of watching "We Bought a Zoo," and I was so moved that I plan to see it again. It opens in theaters tomorrow.

Based on a true story about writer and now zoo owner Benjamin Mee, portrayed by Matt Damon, the film is a story of loss, hope, family and pursuing one's dreams. It's a must see for those who have lost spouses and parents. It's also for all dreamers. There is many poignant scenes that will tug on your heart and make you think. Don't miss this heartwarming and beautiful film.

E-mail cathybarbosa@gmail.com Follow her on Twitter @cathybarbosa

How to know if a guy likes a girl, and vice-versa

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Hurtado

DEAR EMILY,

You say in your column that if a guy likes a girl, the girl would know it—even if she is asleep. Or that...if a guy likes a girl...even if the girl he is pirate or a saint...he would still let that girl know that he likes her. Could you be more specific? What are the definite signs that a guy likes a girl? How would a girl know for sure that a guy likes her? KOLLEEN

A girl would probably know the guy likes her even in her sleep if the guy has either revealed his feelings to her up front, or his actions reveal signs of courtship to her even without the accompanying words in their effect. Or if she herself feels there is a common attraction between them to the first place.

It would take a clear-hearted person or an emotionally challenged man or woman not to read the body language of the person who is interested in him or her. Unless the "person" has a repelling personality, an amount of persuasive body language can break the countenance of the object of his desire.

To most people who are drawn to each other, something magical happens. Call it hormones, call it compatibility, call it cosmic, but their experiences become electrically charged, we're told.

Have you had a girl honor if a person or a suitor likes her? Here, just as other human beings would! They will manifest their attraction in the girl, however forbidden it is! But whether or not they succeed in their pursuits is the big question. They would call

To two people who are drawn to each other, something magical happens

but one of the blue, or perhaps wait a silly conversation that is suddenly of major importance...anything to be near the person they're interested in. Long story short—ordinary stuff suddenly takes on an important "mean do" and "must see" event.

Now to a story situation, in case you've never been schooled in the world of this dazzling roller coaster. It will drive you mad, it will bring you to unimaginable heights of joy or plunge you into realms of deep despair. Yet, despite the tears and bickering of the popular, and often unwanting is still You, over, you get up and find yourself desperately—over again...and again. Much like a locked record.

If the girl feels that something undeniable is brewing even while she's asleep, you assume she's already emotionally involved, however you're relying in reverse. But the honor on it!

E-mail the author at emailtoemily@gmail.com, follow Emily Hurtado on Twitter @emilyahurtado

The true story behind Susie's story

From page C1

tyres right in the family home or weekend estate. In few allegations or realities: that the death of their only son, Francisco "Jr" or Paquito, in a jet-skiing accident off the family estate in Catanduan was indirectly caused by the worn sighting of his father with his alleged lover in the estate—and the girl was even Paquito's friend.

So what finally pushed Susie to file the conscientious case and risk being the talk of the town?

Over lunch last week with her friends, they told us that finally she was proof of what her friends—and family—had been telling her about her husband's alleged affair.

"The help had been talking and reporting things to her even when they were living in Manila (where Paqui was ambassador), and the alleged mistress Ms. Antonio was his executive assistant," a friend said, "but she wouldn't really believe until her own family started telling her."

"Even that ambassadorial appointment was funny," the friend said. "DMA (Susie is a good friend and former schoolmate of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) thought she was appointing Susie as ambassador, but obviously there was a foul-up in the DFA. And it was no late when GMA found out that it was the husband, not the wife, who had been named."

Not long after their return from Mexico, when the ambassadorial stint ended, Susie began looking into her husband's relationship with her best friend.

Soon enough, in 2011, she left the conjugal home, after she had uncovered the alleged affair.

Empty nest

Her son dead and her two daughters with families and homes of their own, Susie and Paqui were in an empty nest. "Paqui would come home way past midnight and would be gone early in the morning. Sue had been the pioneer of three married life," a friend said.

After Susie broke away, she decided, upon the pending of her own family, to ask Paqui to sign a quit claim to her personal inheritances—the Madrigal Bayot side—or what is called her paraphernal estate (the separate real or personal property of a married woman that she can dispose of at will and sometimes including or income law during her life—defined in Webster's dictionary), which runs to multi-billions. In exchange for this, Paqui could have all their conjugal properties. According to friends, Paqui didn't sign the quit claim.

Perhaps what surprises, or impresses, high society more about Susie's bold move to file a suit is that Susie has always been seen as diffident and unassuming.

The oldest and only daughter among three children of Josefina Madrigal and Francisco Bayot Sr., Susie studied at Assumption Convent and here at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Paqui—a De La Salle graduate and the "crush ng bayan" in their time—was her first and only boyfriend. They have been married 42 years, with two daughters and a son, and five grandchildren. Susie is now living with a daughter.

She grew up in a plain household where her mother would always pray, and she with her—faculty the making of a liberated woman, even in the time of Gloria Steubens.

"Susie didn't have enough self-confidence, like any battered wife," said a friend. "Paqui would always cut her down, even in front of people, for her cooking, for anything. At one dinner, Paqui hollered at her from another table and she was ready to spring to her feet, but we told her to stay put (a hot seat or else we'd all lose her five thousand bucks."

If you believe that men—reportedly Filipino men who have no divorce law to go their down to alimony—are chronic philanderers, you'll also believe that silicia cosmetic Susie only because of how much a woman can give and take.

In this case, she give and take involves a woman's sense of self-worth, just like in any marriage. But unlike most marriages, in this case, the give and take can also run to billions.

Indeed, the rich are not like you and me.

SUSIE Bayot Ortigas (third from right) with her kin, from left, Mary de Leon Ballos, Lisa Bayot, Joe Bayot, Pia Bayot, Patricia Ortigas Borromeo, Oliver (husband of Pia Bayot), Paco Bayot III and Arlanza Ortigas Borromeo

ROMAN and Shalani in an inquirer.ftc photo

9 days to go, Shalani . . .

From page C1

They met almost a year ago, and have been inseparable since.

Shalani was thrust into the limelight two years ago when she was the girlfriend of then presidential candidate Benigno Aquino.

For the wedding, luxurious cake designer and couture Pirik Chiong has designed what Jirik considers her "masterpiece," because it's simple yet very luxurious.

Pirik says: "The cake will be on the tone of white, a banana seafoam, with quilted design with Swarovski crystals."

The other layers will be gumpaste plants, to appear like chocolate covering the layers.

Actually, Jirik is out to replicate here, but since a fancy pavers may be not suitable for the grand occasion, she's using sugar or gumpaste scrolls running from the knob to the front.

"It's like caging the cake with scrolls," she says.

The letters "RS" are in Swarovski crystals.

Pirik has done cakes not only for weddings but also for significant national and international events, including the Beijing Olympics and President Aquino's inaugural reception in Malacañang.

PENK Chong

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Editor Thelma Rimes San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor
SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Rocco

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

'Doc Mikey' makes old people feel young

Born with a silver spoon, he saw, however, 'that money isn't the answer, that money wasn't it'

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

DR. MIKE Vergara

'HEY CUTE, charming, rides a motorcycle and makes house calls." Those were the instructions cited by Chit Rocco, "S" contributing editor, for me to meet and interview family doctor Jose Miguel Vergara Vergara.

And they were all confirmed on the second interview after I entered his lavish reception area. Getting him to commit to a second meeting for follow-up was touch and go as certain days of the week he visits cancer patients in Cavite.

It was at his Loyola International Multispecialty Clinic on Katipunan Avenue that we reconnected, he greeting me with a full smile and beaming down to hear my shock. That was pleasantly unexpected. But I had to tear Chit: "It's the first time a doctor made him to me." Her reply: "Yes, he's cute. But then how? Solve na 'yan!"

No wonder elderly patients and those nearing senior citizenship rush out Doc Mikey. Although a DP College of Medicine graduate (batch 84), where it was common for medical clerks and residents to see 50 patients a day within a three-hour consultation period at the Philippine General Hospital, for his naturally friendly bedside manner, the son the old folks would describe as "I just see him as how his voice and I feel all right."

Perhaps deems that patience is his field of specialization. It is happier that the Quezon City clinic originally began as a physical rehabilitation center, its patients, most of them the elderly with chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and cancer). They needed someone like him.

At a Rotary Club of Makati meeting at Dusit Thani Manila early in the year, a friend introduced Vergara, 51, to someone who initially did not wonder of mind exposure and intervention, then never left that place for 20 years. After serving the less fortunate, he decided to return to Metro Manila and raise some money to support his family.

Respectful distance

But this is a person who could've had it easy growing up in the exclusive village of La Vista, then moving to Forbes Park, going to posh and high school at Ateneo, then on to UP Diliman for his Zoology undergraduate degree. His most difficult major for a pre-med student? and the UE after graduating from medical proper to spend a year with his family.

He told his aunt, Corazon Aquino, that he would return to the Philippines, if she can be President. He came back in '85 to help with the campaign. When she won, he decided to maintain a respectful distance and move in the provinces.

He admits that he didn't specialize in a medical field after he got his degree in medicine. The number in him led him to take a graduate degree in anatomy at the Asian Theological Seminary in Quezon City so he could combine medicine and ministry work in places like Cotabato and Tawi-tawi.

As a freshman in high school, he was already decided on being a doctor and a missionary at the same time. He used praising the Jesuits, but he flunked after the third semester. He was being advised to contemplate in orchestra his decision to become a priest at the Ateneo Rector, but the sociable Vergara

DOC MIKEY D2

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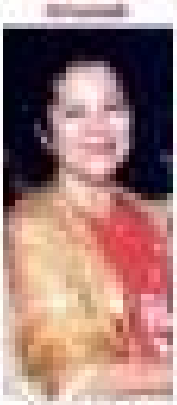
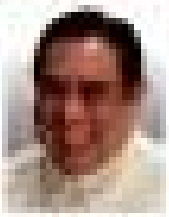
In the beginning



The dreaded water test

Stressing the miracle of birth again

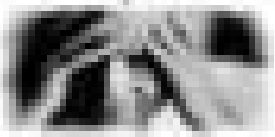


ears, sighs—and senior moments—at weddings

My mom was afraid no one but a dentist would be fool enough to give advice. But perhaps the bumps among loved ones also bring hearts? I have several life-something

Lyndsey L. Brown

MY CHINESE MOTHER



Relieve diabetes-induced stress with 9 powerful herbs

key' makes old people ...

Garden show features mobile plant arts

THE PHILIPPINE Horticultural Society Inc., with the Quezon City government, will be sponsoring a flower and garden show on Jan. 27-Feb. 6 at the elevated garden of the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Exhibits will formally open on Jan. 28 at 3 p.m.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, Korean Vice President Noli de Castro and Rep. Cynthia Villar will be kindly upon the exhibits.

To signal the opening will be six lucky-hong players.

Overall show chairs Dr. Romeo Gutierrez and Elvira S. Bautista announced that the exhibits will focus on gardening for a healthy living.

Theme is "New Trends and Creative Techniques in Gardening."

Apart from the landscaping display of rare and old varieties of various ornamentals, both tropical and temperate, also to be featured will be creative mobile plant arts, such as tray landscapes (dish gardens), topiaries, wall-hanging gardens, terrariums, bonsai, waterside landscapes, potted gardens, water gardens and wire waterfalls, among others.

Mobile plants are recommended for indoors of apartments, townhouses, condominiums, hotels, restaurants, offices, hospitals, airports, bus terminals and malls/stations.

For land plant lovers, there will be a commercial section where one can buy collector's items such as domestic and imported and new hybrids.

There will also be daily educational lecture demonstrations on various aspects of gardening.

Organizers said the show also seeks to raise awareness on climate change.

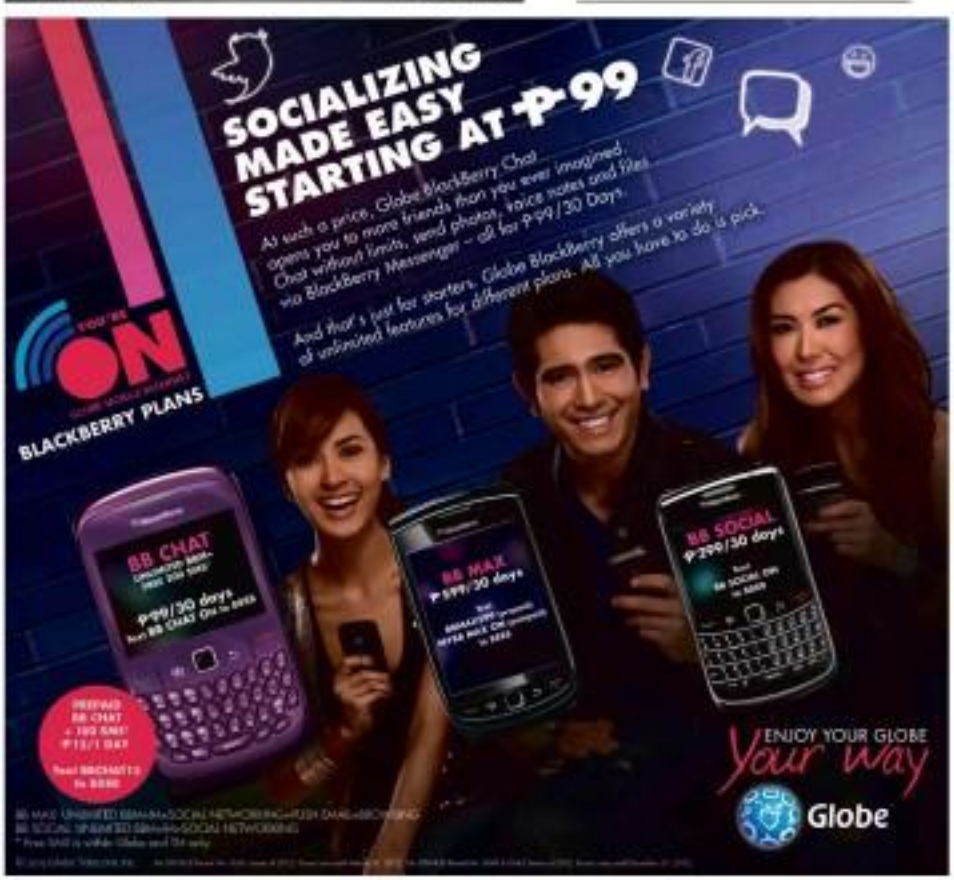
For more details, call Mel Bonita at 8346835, 0917-5221352, e-mail melbpalomo@yahoo.com.ph.

Mall holds four-day sale

Sta. Lucia Mall is holding a clearance sale until Jan. 15. The mall offers special discounts and benefits for RCBC Bankard Mastercard holders. Benefits include extra points at Sta. Lucia Department Store, Home Gallery, Planet Toys. 8.8-percent year-round rebate on all retail transactions. 1 percent discount at Sta. Lucia Supermarket. Free movie pass for every P1,000 single transaction at Sta. Lucia Mall's participating tenants. Free entrance to Royal Tagaytay Country Club, free parking for a minimum P500 worth of purchase; priority lane at Sta. Lucia Super market, and freebies from participating tenants. Sta. Lucia Mall is located along Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal.

WHAT'S UP

PROMOTING HEALTHY EATING. Brand ambassadors Jenny Youngbuland and Phil Youngbuland recently met with fans at Kenny Rogers in Trinoma Mall for a Mom and Given. The visit coincided with the launch of Kenny's New Honey Roast Chicken along with four new side dishes: Garlic Parmesan Grave beans, Sour Cream and Chives Potatoes, Turnip Salad and Aglio Olio. Kenny Rogers is the only restaurant in the Philippines that has taken an active role in promoting healthy eating. For more details, log on to www.kennys.com.ph or call 5338888.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

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A spectacular island getaway—hunk not included, unfortunately

My youngest daughter Athena is quite shy. That can't possibly be my DNA

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdez

I'M A GENIUS! my lover and I dream of having my own secluded, private island getaway, where I can stay in luxurious splendor living next to white sand and blue waters. My dream even includes a gorgeous six-pack hunk serving me a fruit cocktail as he emerges out of the water!

That ultimate dream is now possible at the Alphaland Balesin Island Club (www.alphaland.com.ph). It's a private paradise in our spectacular island and truly a dream come true (hunk not included, unfortunately).

Over the holidays, I got a group of friends to check out Balesin and spend a day in paradise. We headed to the club's private departure lounge and took a brand new Cessna Caravan plane ride that landed 25 minutes later on an amazing concrete runway that we were told is almost twice the length of the Boracay runway.

Balesin is off the coast of Quezon, directly east of Manila. The island itself is only half the size of Boracay, but it has over 7 km of pristine white sand limping it. The developer, Alphaland Corporation, is building six themed villages around the island where members can stay.

We took a taxi and saw Bali, drove up to the Costa Smeralda, imagined ourselves in St. Tropez, walked around Mykonos, tipped by Phuket and finally came home in the Philippine village. As a member gets 14 complimentary village nights per year, it looks like a cheap way to go around the world were we overlooking!

At the club's Welcome Pavilion, we met Balesin GM Marco Diaz and his friendly staff serving cold towels and passion fruit drinks. Marco was a font of trivia, regaling us on all the island stats as we toured the different villages in an elongated golf buggy.

Each themed villa has a spacious bedroom with a king-size bed covered with the highest possible thread-count bedsheets and pillows that were so soft in the [illegible]. The entertainment includes a flat screen satellite TV,

A SPECTACULAR ON

Chloe's new designer debuts new Spring-Summer 2012 collection

STORY on page E2

MARCIE shoulder bag with strap, in lambskin and calfskin, in Fleetcorrent

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Australian Open begins—it's rock 'n'roll tennis

Players are like rock stars—with their own hot partners in the Player Box

By Paula Philomena Abdul
Contributor

THE TENNIS world is a bubble, a romantic bubble at that.

Like the circus, the players travel far and wide, performing to delighted crowds the world over. Sometimes they deliver, other times they don't.

It's a performance—they are performers, dealing with their pressures you are allowed certain indulgent concessions.

So, what do you need if you spend most of your year jumping on and off planes, checking in and out of hotels and competing tooth-n-nail against those considered to be your friends?

Apart from that nifty multi-functional adaptor to charge your iPhone, iPad or favorite tech gadget, they have their posse, or as we see them... an entourage.

Rock stars' entourages will get that backstage pass. In Tennis Land that would be a seat in the coveted Players Box.

All rock stars have hot partners who will match their performs, glam-eyed, full of adrenaline.

Andy Roddick has the attractive Brooklyn Decker. Novak Djokovic has his tennis-fit Serbian girlfriend, Ana Ivanovic. Andy Murray has his British rose Kim Sears. Maria Sharapova has hot NBA star Sasha Vujacic. Caroline Wozniacki has golf genius Rory McIlroy, while she may host that honorific but her own horny boyfriend golfer Adam Scott.

There you have the stage parents or family. The Williams family. Andy Murray's mum Judy, grimacing or grinning with every bad or good shot. Rafa's uncle and coach Toni—full of tough love for the Spaniard.

It's easy to see why these people are so important to a player on tour. They are a piece of home, a security blanket and everybody likes to feel safe. No matter how bad-ass or famous you are.

It's totally mano bio.

Then there are the fans. If you're on site and suddenly there is a hurtfully, a swarm of people heading in one direction with a great sense of urgency, it's one of three things....Federer, Rafa or Djokovic.

They walk quickly, with purpose and never impressively surrounded by hefty men, in suits and wiggly wires coming out from their ear. Every rock star's essential accessory...security.

The fans are civil but definitely on a mission to get that photo they can post on Facebook. All good groupies throw underwear and I scroll interviewing a certain Japanese player who also said he was once given a pair of knickers by a fan.

Rock stars always have mixes. A list of musicians from their mp3 on tour or on a cruise. These important things such as white noise, Evian water to bathe in or the room sprinkled with vanilla every time they enter.

Tennis players aren't too different. However, instead of bathing in Evian, they need to drag it down by the gallon. While Maria Sharapova won't consume pre-performance, it is crucial tennis players spend time with their nutritionist after every match.

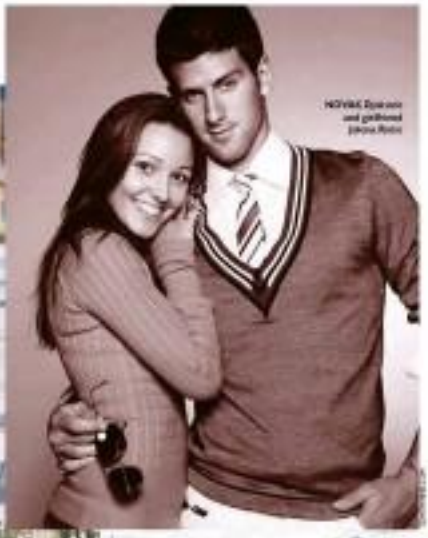
While J-Lo may eat only purple papayas grown from the soil of Timbuktoo, Novak will be one very upset sportsman if he doesn't have only gluten free food.

As we head into the first formal blasts of the year, the Australian Open, it's not only the tennis that is captivating but the energy that surrounds some of the bigger names. The Australian papers will be full of nightlife of various personalities.

Rafa may be seen at Nobu. Murray will no doubt be also seen in another Japanese restaurant, and the romantic couples will be "papped" as they stroll along the streets of Melbourne.

Rock stars. But instead of guitars they have tennis racquets—gotta love it.

Paula Abdul-Ali will be covering the Australian Open in Melbourne. Catch it on Star Sports and on ESPN AR in high definition from Jan. 16.


NOVAK Djokovic and girlfriend Jelena Ristic

MARIA Sharapova and her NBA star boyfriend Sasha Vujacic; at right, Andy Roddick and model-wife Brooklyn Decker; below, Ana Ivanovic and golfer boyfriend Adam Scott

THE AUTHOR interviewing Rogis Federer; at left, Caroline Wozniacki with golf icon Rory McIlroy

Old-timer's homecoming and baptism enliven Cebu social scene

Jaime Pimentel

ROSE ALONSO came to Cebu from Cal. Ifornia for a brief visit whose main purpose was to toss a party and introduce her only grand daughter, **Isabelle Alexis Bjerkholder**. Guests were mostly close friends representing some of Cebu's oldest and most prominent families.

That was quite a crowd at the Club Filipino pavilion on the PGH building at Cebu Business Park. Getting the nods, and all the oohing, was baby Isabelle in the arms of her mother, Shemaine "Ginger" Alonso Bjerkholder.

In the days that followed, Tony Gerpe and Isabelle did the rounds of sights and sites around Cebu. Soon they returned to Los Angeles, promising to be back by February for a more extended visit. Ginger with the baby is back in Cagayan where she is the honorary consul of the Philippines.

Rolando "Sir Lo" Lo and Gerchi and **Wolf Rikter** hosted a large group of family and friends on the baptismal of their son **Harvey Antonio Villanueva** at the Sun Cruise Resort Hotel in Lapu-Lapu. Major **Cristobal Garcia**, as Secretary Henry Parish.

There was a long line of participants and

murderous posing for the commemorative photo: Bo and Chantal Pascual, Nestan Frajido, Carlo Anne Banate, Gerry and Joel Mallick Mendoza and Bob Escalante, Merle Garcia, Ian Hernandez, Banjo and Kina Dy, Glenn Cuenco and Vincent Garcia. Unable to attend were Kristine and Chris Garcia.

To celebrate the occasion, there was organic dinner at the ballroom of Cebu Country Club. Radiantly happy was Alonso Antonio's glamorous maternal grandmother, Lucy Franco Garcia. Holding court at a special table was great aunt Nena Espina Garcia.

Over to Dimas Cay Leyte, **Robin** and **Rosie Lumanlan** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. There was a huge family gathering at their Subia home lined by the beach attended by the diamond celebrants' 10 children, spouses, 22 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Guests from Cebu took the fast ferry.

Cebu at the moment is in the midst of its annual Festivity honoring the Santo Niño. The fiesta comes to a head this day with the Sinulog celebration, now on its 53rd year. But the traditional procession, which took place yesterday, is not the only event.

As it does every year, Mayor Jojo Plaza Hotel has a Cebuano food fest in progress and an exhibit of Santo Niño images at its lobby lounge. Mayor **Garlito Pinto** officiated the blessing of the exhibit during its opening. He was assisted by exhibitors **Erasmus Ben Cabeo, Archie Escobar Enerio, Mark Steven Go** and **Val Santiago** who organized it all.

We also brought members of his dance company to perform the Sinulog to the beat of drums and bugles. The dancers were elaborate costumes. Period guards had a field day clicking their cameras and applauding.

Welcome remarks were delivered by resident manager Julie Make, while **Arsolee Avila** explained the various activities that had events led and prepared for the duration of the ritual fest.

MR. AND Mrs. Rolando "Sir Lo" Lo and Wolf Rikter with son Harvey Antonio

SPONSOR Bjerkholder with daughter Isabelle Alexis

There was fiesta food from clams and mussels galore of seafoods. Cebu, such as Cassia, Argao, Boljoon, Moalbo. Dalaguete and Barili.

Mayor Pinto's aides and marketing director Lara Cuadrado-Incarnacion were present as were executive chef **Lalo Gagarin**, human resources director Mynie Toledo, F&B director **Stephan Wiegmink** and the PR staff. Among them were **Ryan Cebuano, Alvaro Monasterio, Monikka Tan** and **Tweney Montiel** who hosted the program in Bisaya/Cebuano.

"This has been quite a successful culinary journey," said Julie Nagar days after, citing the response of the dining public. The next food fest will focus on Chinese. Jan. 23-28, to coincide with the Chinese New Year.

THE PARATY gets a makeover for Spring-Summer 2012 with military-inspired shoulder straps.

PARATY shoulder bag in calfskin with tassel, in Clay

Chloe's new designer debuts new Spring-Summer 2012 collection

CLAUDE WAIGHT Keller moved to Paris with her young family to join Chloé as the brand's new creative director on June 2011, and about three days has immersed herself in the city.

"The energy is different in Paris. It's chaotic and pristine, and there's a tension between modernity and heritage here which affects my approach."

For Keller, Chloé is unique. "Chloé speaks to me on so many levels," she says. "First because it's feminine. I love the free spirited, effortless attitude, the kind of girl Chloé is. It's about those fabulous pieces you wear on many different ways, and the spirit of confidence you have when you wear them. It's cool."

In her first season for Chloé, Keller considered the mood of the Chloé girl and discovered a multitude of feminine promenades that define the brand. "I looked at bonsai girls, girls on the street, and David Sheby's photos of Manic Melvin and Anjelica Huston on a beach," says Keller. "There's a sense of freedom—simplicity, sensitivity and sexiness in this collection."

The overall attitude for Chloé this spring is modern and feminine, with spontaneous charm and a certain intelligence for a look that is fresh, natural and eclectic.

Chloé is available only at Ardeza, 2/F and 3/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City, tel. 2174029.

CHLOÉ'S Resort 2012 ad campaign, shot by Angelo Pennetta, highlights two of the brand's most iconic handbags—the Marcie and the Paraty.

MARCIE shoulder bag in Eucalyptus, one of Chloé's key colors for Spring-Summer 2012

NOW one of her most coveted handbags at Chloé, the Modernizer's closet lines and luxe-lux material make it the ultimate accessory for the most discerning and stylish woman. At right, new Chloé creative director Clare Waight Keller

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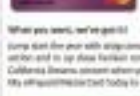

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Sto. Niño de Providencia's miracle of the holy oil

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

At 12AM 12,000 devotees are expected to attend the 20th anniversary of the miracle of the holy oil that came out of the image of the Sto. Niño on Jan. 27, 1992 in the house of the late Concepcion Gonzales at #1-30 s.u.

At 7 a.m., Jan. 27, the (re-oil) image will be brought out of the Holy Family Prayer Room and enshrined at the festival grounds on Sto. Al Pijmas Street in BF Resort Village, Las Piñas. Earlier Novena will run Jan. 18-26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Prayer Room.

The Mercedes children will lead the procession at 7:30 a.m., followed by the Thanksgiving Mass of Msgr. Bernardino Aquino, the new parish priest of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish.

Brother Dontong will hold hunting at 9 a.m. at the Basilang residence along Pijmas Street.

Pariana Gutierrez will give an inspirational talk followed by the Healing Mass of Fr. Gerard Devine, at 11 a.m.

Fr. Fe Loyalties, OSB, and Fr. Hazel Apostol, OSB, whose mother was healed by the Sto. Niño, will anoint the people with healing oil from the statue.

Mass by Fr Corrie Legaspi

A motorcade at 2 p.m. will bring the Sto. Niño to the parish church where a concelebrated Mass will take place at 3 p.m., with Fr Corrie Legaspi as main celebrant.

Other celebrants are Msgr. Aquino, Msgr. Dilip Orchard Fr. Daniel Healy.

The Missionaries of the Child Jesus will be in the front.

Devotees in Bacolod led by Lenny Montecalvo and the Carmelites, Bolinaguit, Iligan and Cebu will also celebrate with Masses. They have replica images of the Sto. Niño de Providencia.

Miracle of the oil

Lorna Gonzales said that on Jan. 27, 1992, the small statue of the Sto. Niño which has been in her family home in Tayuman in 1900, was placed in the living room of their house, as they could pray day and night for the healing of her brother, Rodolfo "Boy" Gonzales Jr. from a medical ailment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital.

They were shocked on the head by a cured but sent this Lubos Hospital in Quezon City one evening after bringing a female patient home. He was rushed to the hospital where doctors tried to save his life. They did, but he was in a coma.

"I was one whole cola flooded with a very sweet smelling and sticky substance. I saw the eyes of the image weeping liquid profusely. Sensing down for chubby cheeks. I scooped the oil and applied it on the body, head and feet of my brother over and over again. With the Holy Oil, my brother opened his eyes and was healed," the innocent devotee gushed.

"At about noon, nuns and priests of different congregations came to pay homage to Him. Endless devotees started to pour in every day. For the nuns, we had to construct a small Prayer Room to be able to accommodate devotees coming from all over the country from directors from foreign countries started to visit Him."

Icon named

Msgr. Aquilino Renuncy named the image "Misericordias Infinite Jesus de Providencia." He blessed the Holy Family Prayer Room on June 30, 1992.

Lorna Gonzales said the words "love suffering" for the 2000 anniversary. Those who have been helped through healing and the solution of problems may want to help. Call her at 5462902 or text 09224334666.

Sto. Niño exhibit

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will hold the 50th Fiesta del Santo Niño Jan. 19-27 at the PHR Ecumenical Center along Quezada Municipal Avenue. At least 700 images will be exhibited. Novena Masses will be held at 7 p.m.

THE MIRACULOUS image of Sto. Niño de Providencia has been doubling body oil for the past 20 years. Feast day is Jan. 27.

This year's observance may coincide with Chinese New Year. Visitors may call Mrs. Bernadette Vidoga and Mick Ile and Lito Mitra.

Registration is Jan. 16-18 (Opening of the exhibit is on Jan. 19, 4:30 p.m. Grand procession is on Jan. 25, 3 p.m., from the Malicsi Church to the Quirino Guesthouse. Call Mrs. Ilagan at 8259126, Wong at 8263423.

Monasterio de Tarlac

Pilgrims will drive up the mountain of San Jose, Tarlac on Jan. 30 for the 9 a.m. Mass to mark the 88th anniversary of the enshrinement of the Relic of the Holy Cross.

Msgr. Valfre Bonoy, former custodian of the Relic of the Holy Cross in the Diocese of Iloilo, Gerunday, will fly to the Philippines for the event.

Five years ago, Msgr. Valfre had heated over the the relic to the Sanctuary of the Risen Christ community hosted by Most Archie Cortes, SSC.

A devotee, Sally Maddela, will bring up pilgrims on Jan. 29 after lunch for the visit. Those interested to join, can text her at 0906-2240488. Your package includes overnight hotel stay dinner, breakfast and lunch.

Fatima image in town

The Missionaries Instrumental Filipino Sisters of Fatima (from Portugal) will be in the Church in Apalit-Alabang on Jan. 19.

The rest of the Fatima's itinerary: Jan. 15 (Diocese of Antipolo); Jan. 15-17 (Diocese of Bacolod); Jan. 17-19 (Archdiocese of Cebu); Jan. 19-20 (St. James the Great Parish, Opolo Alabang); Jan. 20-21 (Don Bosco Makati); Jan. 21 (Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord-3M Megamall Chapel); Jan. 22-23 (Sanctuario de San Antonio Forbes Park); Jan. 23-26 (National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Barrio Obrero, Paranaque) and Jan. 24-25, Manila Cathedral (with farewell Mass at 12 noon, Jan. 26).

'Rolling-Rolling'

The Niño de Pandacan devotees build an event by Rolling-Rolling parade yesterday to celebrate the feasts of the Child Jesus today.

"Rolling-Rolling" is a street dance carrying the Child Jesus as they danced. Former first lady Imelda Marcos, who is from Pandacan, was the honorary mayor; Joel Cruz was her mayor.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Sto. Niño. Let us whisper our prayers to Him who told Santa Teresa de Avila. "The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you."

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9×9 square grid, subdivided into 9 smaller squares or regions. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each of the nine smaller regions contains all of the digits 1 to 9 exactly once. The difficulty level of the puzzle is determined by the number of clues it contains.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Tuley

	3				7	5		
		6				2		7
1	2							
4				3			6	
	8			5				1
							8	5
6			3		8			
			2	4			9	

Monday's hard

Answer to previous puzzle

5	1	2	9	6	8	7	4	3
7	6	4	3	1	5	9	8	2
8	9	3	2	4	7	6	5	1
1	5	7	6	2	3	4	3	8
4	8	9	5	3	8	1	2	7
3	2	6	8	7	1	5	3	9
9	3	5	5	6	1	2	7	4
6	7	8	4	9	2	3	1	5
2	4	1	7	5	3	8	9	6

'Charlie Brown' at RCBC, 'Next Fall' at OnStage

"YOU'RE a Good Man, Charlie Brown" musical, Feb. 13-March 4

PRODUCTION house Fidanka Productions stages Tony award-winning musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Jan. 15-March 4, at the Circle, 7F Rizcom Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati.

Book, music and lyrics to by Charles Gaines, with additional dialogue by Michael Mayer, additional music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is a funny and heartwarming musical told through a series of recognizable vignettes that look into an average day in the life of Charlie Brown and others from the cartoons and universality of their everyday situations—making it the perfect family musical that will surely resonate with audiences young and old.

The production team is led by Ikoh Santamaria (executive producer), Jojo Sandoval is a comedy manager), Toffi de Venecia (marketing and PR director), Jocelyn Mueller (PR manager), Pamela Quiambao (events manager) and Jojo Mendoza (stage manager).

Call 8378888, ARCH Office 3087-3088/88 or e-mail info@fidanka.ph for reservations.

'Next Fall' in OnStage

Repertory Philippines ushers in 2015 with "Next Fall," a play that paints a beautiful and funny portrait of modern romance, asking some hard questions about commitment and faith and the transformative power of love. Veteran actor-director Audie Gemora directs.

Staging runs until Feb. 15, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinee shows on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. At least for moments are at Onstage, Greenhill 3, Makati.

The cast features Ikki Stanggren and Dave Bianco.

Written by playwright Geoffrey Nauffts, "Next Fall" tells the moving story of Luke and Adam, eight months agonizing over differences in their religious faiths.

Call 5751005 or 5714848 or e-mail info@repertory.ph. Tickets are also available thru Ticketworld at 8911999 or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Spring Film Festival in Shangri-La Plaza

The fifth Spring Film Festival will be in Shangri-La Plaza cinema, Jan. 20-29, in celebration of the Chinese New Year. It features free screenings in Cinema 5 from 2 to 6. Different age groups will enjoy a variety of "fun" films—from animated kids tale Jet Li's Kung Fu Panda and kid-side Liza Soberano's father-daughter love story Everyone's Star.

"Lost on Journey" narrates the story of Chenggong (a travel enthusiast—Jaycee Arellano, the world class of bad luck) while on a long and winding journey to reunite his family in time to celebrate New Year's Eve. Along the way, he meets a colleague who makes him realize things about himself and see the goodness in other people.

In "Journey to Wedding," actress a Chinese culture clash in a couple, with the to-be from the city and groom from the country-side decides to file for. Parents of the soon-to-be newlyweds meddle in the wedding affairs as each wishes for the grand celebration to take place in either the groom's hometown or the city-to-be.

A biographical drama chronicling the extraordinary life of Yuan Longping, Chinese scientist who is the father of hybrid rice and grandfather of hybrid rice, "Yuan Longping" follows the life of Yuan Longping (Chen Kun) from his childhood days to his adulthood. Longping's passion for hybrid rice and his dedication to his work and his family are highlighted in the film.

Tickets are at P150 per person. Call 6338613 or 6338614.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

KETTLE DETECTOR

answer on page B4

Start the Chinese New Year with a blast in Baguio

THE DRAGON is a creature of mythical and legend symbolizing success and happiness. Start the Chinese New Year with a Dragon Blast and let the colorful Dragon bring good luck for you and your family at The Manor at Camp John Hay in cool Baguio City (Jan. 19-21).

Food lovers awaits guests at the Garden with various Chinese dishes and delicacies on sale from 9 a.m. -9 p.m. Feng Shui consulting with Jean Antillon is also available at the Cigar House, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

On Jan. 21, Chinese New Year's Eve, grand Tenkohen start at 7 p.m. with the traditional Dragon Dance, followed by a Wushu Exhibition by Tekamolavo at 8 p.m. and a Lion Dance.

Jan. 22 is Chinese New Year's Day with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 is Chinese New Year's Day 2 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 24 is Chinese New Year's Day 3 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 25 is Chinese New Year's Day 4 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 is Chinese New Year's Day 5 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 is Chinese New Year's Day 6 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 28 is Chinese New Year's Day 7 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 29 is Chinese New Year's Day 8 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 30 is Chinese New Year's Day 9 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 31 is Chinese New Year's Day 10 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 1 is Chinese New Year's Day 11 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 is Chinese New Year's Day 12 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 3 is Chinese New Year's Day 13 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 4 is Chinese New Year's Day 14 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 5 is Chinese New Year's Day 15 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 6 is Chinese New Year's Day 16 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 7 is Chinese New Year's Day 17 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 is Chinese New Year's Day 18 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 is Chinese New Year's Day 19 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 is Chinese New Year's Day 20 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 11 is Chinese New Year's Day 21 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 12 is Chinese New Year's Day 22 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 is Chinese New Year's Day 23 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 14 is Chinese New Year's Day 24 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 15 is Chinese New Year's Day 25 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 is Chinese New Year's Day 26 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 17 is Chinese New Year's Day 27 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 18 is Chinese New Year's Day 28 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 19 is Chinese New Year's Day 29 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 20 is Chinese New Year's Day 30 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 is Chinese New Year's Day 31 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 22 is Chinese New Year's Day 32 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 23 is Chinese New Year's Day 33 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 24 is Chinese New Year's Day 34 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 25 is Chinese New Year's Day 35 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 is Chinese New Year's Day 36 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 is Chinese New Year's Day 37 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 28 is Chinese New Year's Day 38 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 29 is Chinese New Year's Day 39 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 30 is Chinese New Year's Day 40 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 31 is Chinese New Year's Day 41 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 32 is Chinese New Year's Day 42 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 33 is Chinese New Year's Day 43 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 34 is Chinese New Year's Day 44 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 35 is Chinese New Year's Day 45 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 36 is Chinese New Year's Day 46 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 37 is Chinese New Year's Day 47 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 38 is Chinese New Year's Day 48 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 39 is Chinese New Year's Day 49 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 40 is Chinese New Year's Day 50 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 41 is Chinese New Year's Day 51 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 42 is Chinese New Year's Day 52 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 43 is Chinese New Year's Day 53 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 44 is Chinese New Year's Day 54 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 45 is Chinese New Year's Day 55 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 46 is Chinese New Year's Day 56 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 47 is Chinese New Year's Day 57 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 48 is Chinese New Year's Day 58 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 49 is Chinese New Year's Day 59 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 50 is Chinese New Year's Day 60 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 51 is Chinese New Year's Day 61 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 52 is Chinese New Year's Day 62 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 53 is Chinese New Year's Day 63 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 54 is Chinese New Year's Day 64 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 55 is Chinese New Year's Day 65 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 56 is Chinese New Year's Day 66 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 57 is Chinese New Year's Day 67 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 58 is Chinese New Year's Day 68 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 59 is Chinese New Year's Day 69 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 60 is Chinese New Year's Day 70 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 61 is Chinese New Year's Day 71 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 62 is Chinese New Year's Day 72 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 63 is Chinese New Year's Day 73 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 64 is Chinese New Year's Day 74 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 65 is Chinese New Year's Day 75 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 66 is Chinese New Year's Day 76 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 67 is Chinese New Year's Day 77 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 68 is Chinese New Year's Day 78 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 69 is Chinese New Year's Day 79 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 70 is Chinese New Year's Day 80 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 71 is Chinese New Year's Day 81 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 72 is Chinese New Year's Day 82 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 73 is Chinese New Year's Day 83 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 74 is Chinese New Year's Day 84 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 75 is Chinese New Year's Day 85 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 76 is Chinese New Year's Day 86 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 77 is Chinese New Year's Day 87 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 78 is Chinese New Year's Day 88 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 79 is Chinese New Year's Day 89 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 80 is Chinese New Year's Day 90 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 81 is Chinese New Year's Day 91 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 82 is Chinese New Year's Day 92 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 83 is Chinese New Year's Day 93 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 84 is Chinese New Year's Day 94 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 85 is Chinese New Year's Day 95 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 86 is Chinese New Year's Day 96 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to 2 p.m. and dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 87 is Chinese New Year's Day 97 with Tenkohen at 7 a.m. and Lion Dance at 8 a.m. Lunch buffet at the Manor's Dining Room is at 12 noon to

VISITING guests pose in front of the private piers of Balesin Island Club.

VISITING island guests Mike and Caroline Andrews, Dennis Valdes, Rosan Cruz, Balesin GM Marco Diaz, Sea Princess, Mikel Raz and Tessa Mendigan.

WELCOME Pavilion of Alphaland Balesin Island Club next to the island's paved runway.

CENTENNIAL-OLD gigantic Balete tree on Balesin Island.

SALA at Balesin Island Club.

PRIVATE villa fronting the beach of Balesin Island.

BEAUTIFUL beach front Balesin Village.

ISLAND tour through golf buggy.

IMAGO lead singer Alex de Leon sings for us at the Welcome Pavilion.

RESORT World's generous donation presented by Resorts World Sentosa CEO Tan Hee Teck, Resorts World Manila EVP Steven Reilly and Resorts World Manila president Kingson Sian.

TALENT-HUNTING Pinoy pool judges Ms. Fu, Sea Princess, Eddie Garcia.

PBCOM Bank branch opening at Alphaland with guests of honor PBCom vice chair Eric Recto and Sea Princess.

DISCOVERY Channel's Jacopo Ruiz and Sea Princess at Times Just Fine launch.

TIMES Sea family Gemma Pagdilao, Anthony Pangilinan and daughter Ella, Sea Princess, rowing coach Ani de Guzman, Times host Antoinette Silzer-Sandoval, Marisol Lara-Pangilinan and host.

"THE SOUND of Music" family Hilka Andrews, Joanna Ampil as Maria, Maricel and Alec Pineda, choreographer Ferr Adduguru, Audie Gemora as Captain Von Trapp, Caroline Andrews, Pinky Amador as Baroness Elsa Schroeder, Sea Princess.

CAST of "The Sound of Music" and Sea Princess at Resorts World.

Elizabeth
DAILY PROMO
up to 30% off
BAGUIO and CEBU
MAKE YOUR YEAR
FERSAL HOTEL

Mystical 'balete'

The best part of the massive development is that it is maintaining as much of the natural topography and beauty of the island. Trees are fully preserved and our tour included a stop at a giant balete tree, from where the island gets its name. With its huge trunk and flowing branches, mother balete emitted almost mystical, Horne Gallo and jogging path snake through the forests of Balesin, all preserved to maintain an eco-friendly scope.

At lunch we were joined by Basile Lesos, lead singer of Imago. Light years ago, we treated it up as a favorite for his hit "Tawalen" on "Celebrity Duets." Later she sang a lovely song, streaming close guitar to look herself up. What better way to dance to enjoy an island?

(To those interested in Balesin, send an e-mail to joshua@alphaland.com.ph to arrange your own getaway. Membership fee/dues can even be loaned through Philippine Bank of Communications.)

It's cool that paradise can be so accessible. PBCom just opened a new branch at the Alphaland boutique Mall beside Dao-mention Village in Makati. Edie G. Recto, vice chair of PBCom, said I cut the ribbon at the opening. Eric told me that the bank is focused on continuing its growth to better service its clients.

Also at the opening was Ruben Ortega, the senior president of Alphaland. I was impressed by the number of new stores in the mall as it showed that Ruben has plans attracting new clients. Near the PBCom branch is one of Philippine's e-Games cafés, beautifully decorated in various shades of red. It must be good feng shui to have a bank beside an Internet casino.

The Sound of Music'

Starting the holidays, I also watched "The Sound of Music" at Resorts World Manila. My longtime friend Hilka Andrews is part of the production, so I was delighted to finally catch the show.

My favorite talent manager Girlie Sotto has been asking me to have my youngest, Athena, join the production as one of the Von Trapp children. Hope-inspired that Lara, I have been hoping she is interested, but unfortunately she is too shy. That can't possibly be my DNA.

"The Sound of Music" has been extended to July 31, so do check out one of the classic musicals. The production and performances is really world-class. After the show, Genting Hong Kong, operator of Resorts World Manila, presented a most generous donation of P17 million to ABS-CBN Foundation for their "Saagip Kapamilya: Operation Noah" Evening also donated the proceeds of that evening's dinner together with donations from the cast and crew of 2000 plus the management team and employees of Resorts World Manila.

Resorts World has been so generous and Chel's why good karma it always flowing in very. With the Year of the Dragon just around the corner, we should remember that charity brings us better luck.

Chinese New Year

I will be welcoming the Chinese New Year in Manulatex Oriental Manila once again. I am excited to hear what revered geomancer master Joseph Chan has to share to enhance the chi of the different animal signs. My favorite fan blogger Ingrid Chua (www.thebigbigbetter.com) has posted the Chinese New Year menu, so foodies should make sure not to miss this fabulous affair.

Chino-Angeles, food and beverage director of Manulatex, will be part of the crew making sure the celebration is even grander than previous years.

Call 7500000 or check www.manulatexmanila.com/manila.)

The best way to prep for a lavish Chinese dinner is to join the Times Just Fine run on Jan. 22. The run will be at The Fort and distances are 5K, 10K and 16K, and prizes await all the winners. Registration is extended until Jan. 16, so head to Times Outlets and Bonanza Stores.

(Mark runners are to sign up.)

Follow Tessa on Twitter @tessamendigan or email her at tessamendigan@inquirer.com.ph.

WATSONS OPENS SEVENTEEN NEW STORES

Bringing Health, Wellness and Beauty to 274 Locations in the Philippines

Watsons recently opened seventeen new stores in the Philippines, bringing the exciting brand and unique shopping experience to more cities across the Philippines.

These new stores serve urban customers in the metro area at Forbeswood Parklane at The Fort, Taguig City and at the SM Hypermarket in North EDSA, as well as shoppers at Savemore supermarkets in Pedro Gil, Manila; Laong Laan, Quezon City; and a Venue Mall in Makati.

New Watsons stores are also conveniently located throughout Luzon: as far north in the Savemore Mini Mall in Laoag and Ilagan, Isabela; down to Iba, Zambales; and the SM City Olongapo mall and supermarket. Customers in the rapidly developing province of Cavite can now enjoy health, wellness, and beauty in Watsons stores at Savemore Sullivan Supermarket, as well as SM Hypermarkets in Sucat, Imus, and at the recently opened SM Market Mall in Kadiwa, Cavite.

Watsons also opened 3 other stores in key Southern Philippine cities at Robinsons Place Bacolod, Gaisano Tagum, Davao, and Savemore Canduman, Cebu.

The opening of these new stores brings to a total of 274 Watsons stores in the country —making it easier and more accessible for customers to shop for their health, wellness, and beauty needs.

About Watsons Your Personal Store

Watsons Your Personal Store is part of the 45 Watson chain, the world's largest health, beauty and personal care retailer with its network of 3,500 stores across 37 countries.

In the Philippines, the first Watsons store opened at The Podium and SM Megamall in 2002. Since that time, 208 more stores have opened in more than 30 cities in the Philippines, serving over 360,000 customers everyday.

Watsons offers a complete range of personal care, cosmetics, skin care, fragrances, beauty accessories, and more. These range from over 3,000 brands from top manufacturers, as well as Watsons' own competitively priced, high quality private labels.

Watsons strives to ensure that their customers get the best value for their money through monthly promotions, special offers, and continuous marketing programs, such as its "Live Beautifully" campaign. This aims to inspire shoppers to improve the way they look, feel, and live in their everyday lives. After all, beauty does not come from physical attributes alone, but is also about being healthy, happy, and confident.

Going Beyond Beauty

Watsons continues to go beyond beauty with the ongoing expansion of its pharmacy business. Voted Asia's No. 1 Pharmacy/Drug retailer in Media/TNS Asia's Top 1000 Brands Survey in 2008, Watsons Pharmacy offers a wide selection of vitamin supplements, over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription medications and other health essentials.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATSONS

Wherever you are in the Philippines, you can enjoy great value on great products at Watsons stores! Be sure to check out their exclusives, as well as their special offers and amazing deals.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

If I would bring visitors around Tarlac, I would take them to the Aquino Museum, which chronicles the life, trials and death of my uncle, Ninoy Aquino. It has numerous memorabilia, letters, photographs and even a few documentaries on his life.

You will also see a replica of his prison cell where he spent years of incarceration, as well as the bloodied jacket he wore when he was assassinated. After seeing the exhibits, you will understand him better and see his transformation into the great man and hero we all know."

THE REPLICA of Ninoy Aquino's Fort Bonifacio cell in the Aquino Museum gives an idea of how he spent his solitary confinement from 1972-1980.

With regard to food, Kapampangan cuisine is the best. From kwek kwek with buro and manduet to the best pork dishes, your taste buds will welcome the assault of varied and strong tastes. The best food can be found in homes, so you can thank your lucky stars when you are invited to partake in a home-cooked meal."

AS THE HOST municipal province of Central Luzon, Tarlac's cuisine has Kapampangan, Ilocano, Pangasinan and Tagalog influences. Basic, whose ancestors came from Pampanga, loves Kapampangan cuisine like sisig, or adobo, with a twist, or fermented dumplings, and various

Bam Aquino and his Tarlac

THE AQUINOS of Tarlac have had a long tradition of public service and love of country.

General Servillano Aquino was a revolutionary hero who participated in the activities of the Katipunan, and later the Philippine American War. Benigno S. Aquino, General Servillano's son, was a respected leader, a distinguished legislator, and member of the Quezon Cabinet. His son, Benigno Simeon "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., the father of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, is considered a hero of democracy.

It was not surprising that, coming from such an extraordinary family, Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV had an active study childhood. The son of Paul Aquino, the youngest brother of late Ninoy Aquino, he was only six years old when his uncle died. As Filipinos began to express their outrage over his assassination, Bam recalls attending rallies and protest marches. He graduated, from 20 persons to an audience of thousands.

By the time he was older, "we already did more than 200 speaking engagements, as a young boy. I got to see things that people of my age didn't really get to see that much. I saw what the Filipino people can do and can be."

After graduating summa cum laude with a BSC in Management Engineering degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1999, Bam worked in the special projects group in ABS-CBN Foundation, and hosted Studio 23's "Breakfast" and "Flyside" for a number of years.

Bam also made chairman of the National Youth Commission, the main youth policy-making arm of the Philippine government from 2000 to 2006, the youngest person in Philippine history to head a government agency.

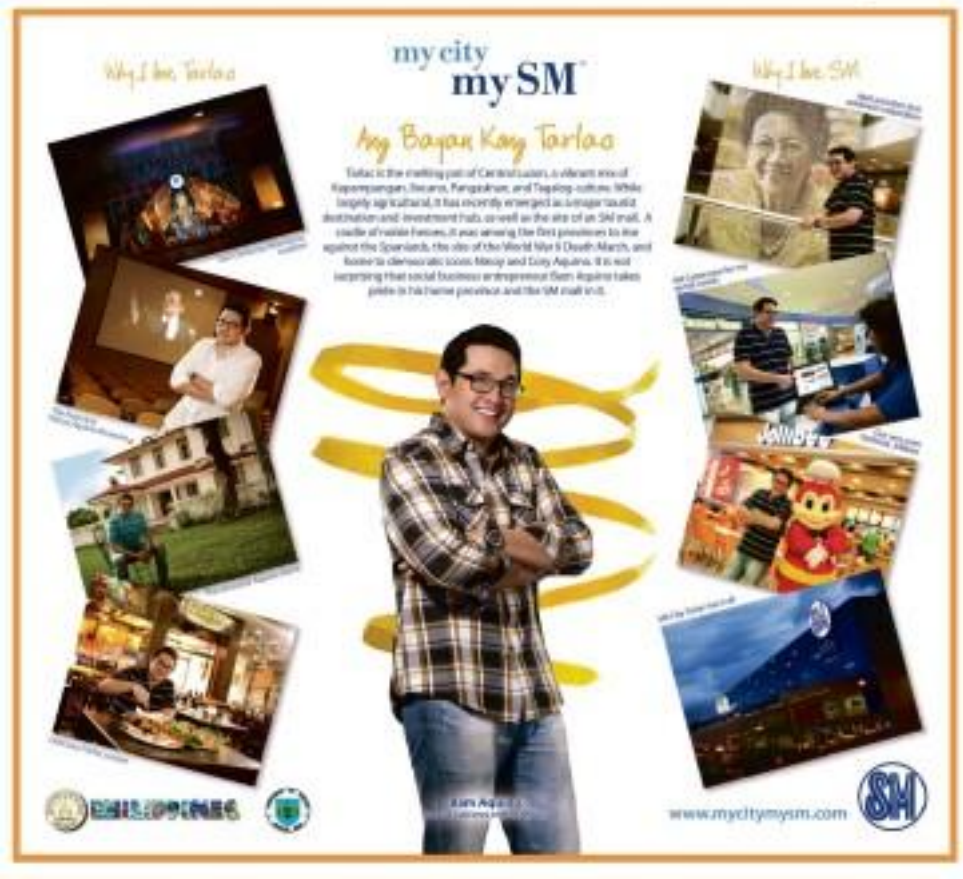
While many of his relatives have entered politics to serve the public, Bam has chosen to take the social entrepreneurship route. As of 2006, he co-founded and is currently the president of Bike-sweeteners Inc., a social business enterprise that serves micro-financing organizations and their clients.

MORE ON PAGE A2

"There is a history of public service in our family and that has greatly affected my life and the choices I have made. My relatives gave so much to our country and never regretted it. And I also want to do the same thing and help in any way I can.

"My Uncle Ninoy never lost hope in and for the Filipino, and most likely the decision to go home came directly from his strengthened spirit and his hopeful heart. As for me, I'm strengthening my spirit, but my heart has always been hopeful for our country."

BAM is shown amidst huge photographs of his uncle, Sen. Ninoy Aquino, at the lobby of the Aquino Museum in Tarlac. The museum was originally built for the late senator, and inaugurated on Aug. 21, 2001, the 18th anniversary of his death, by his wife, the late President Corazon Aquino.
Designed by architect Dan Lichauco, the museum showcases the memorabilia of two icons of democracy—Ninoy and Cory Aquino, highlighting key events in their political careers. It also exhibits personal items that the couple, including nature-inspired paintings by President Cory Aquino.



Biking, kart-riding, even kayaking and white-water rafting –yes, in landlocked Tarlac

BULSA RIVER AND NAMBALAN RAPIDS

On a January morning, the denizens of Bulsa River is so calm that you can see clearly the smooth rocks beneath the glistening water. A forested mountain makes for a refreshing backdrop. There are no landscaped resorts or rooms for rent, just some simple huts for those who want to rest and enjoy the scenery. One has been made into a makeshift sari-sari store tended by Lito Bartolome, who lives just across the river. It's off-peak season, she said, and people go mostly for picnics. By June until the 'ber months, the water gets deeper and the current stronger. The kids even sprouted to make way for people who go kayaking and white-water rafting.

Bulsa River in the town of San Jose, and the Nambalan rapids in Magantarlac, are part of a river system that allows for such water sports. A full-rafting course covers around 25 kilometers. Rapids and riffs are available for rent, with a guide, basic entrance to the river can be arranged. There's no entrance fee since it's a public place, but it gets packed during easy week. The best thing about this place is its untouched quality. Make sure it's long enough water and food since there are hardly any shops around.

Call 08 M. 6208187

By Irene C. Perez

TARLAC is more a popular stopover than a destination. It's one of those provinces you pass by and see from the window as you're on the road to other (Baguio, Zambales, or Bicol in Luzon—the usual tourist draws).

So it surprises travelers—even locals—that there are enough interesting spots and activities in the land-rich province for a good hour. We went around Tarlac and checked out a province town for watersports, a kart park, a well-equipped sports center set amid lush greenery, and a bamboo shop for souvenirs.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEY PUNSALAN

TARLAC RECREATIONAL PARK

Where else can you find an Olympic-size pool beside, wait, an Olympic-size racetrack? The Tarlac Recreational Park (TRP) has this big activity: a big-par sweep, along with a track-and-field oval, and volleyball, sepak takraw and basketball courts. Plus, there are two fields each for football, baseball and softball. TRP is part of the Lobigan EcoPark in the town of San José, and was the venue for the 2010 Palarong Pambansa.

We caught up with the members of the Tarlac Cycling Association (Tel: 045-4600999) early Sunday morning. Around 50 members of mixed backgrounds were blanketing the park route—businessmen, doctors, professional fitness trainers, quite a number of seniors. Cycling in Tarlac has boomed in the past two years, said head Alfred Cruz. One of the older bikers, Lito Antolan, 64, said cycling helps him stay young. TRP is an ideal route for biking with its smooth path and some challenging uphill areas.

It's never too early or too late to get into biking, added Dr. Samuel Rivas. "With the proper gear and training, biking is a safe and effective exercise." The formerly park itself is a good venue to stay fit and stay outdoors. Cardio is, indeed, never fun, with fresh air in the countryside.

TARLAC Cycling Association promotes biking for fun and fitness.

OLYMPIC SIZE pool in the countryside

HEIGHT bunting

KART CITY

Racing started out as a hobby for Pio Aniceto and his friends who established Kart City, a kart park with a bar and restaurant in San Roque. It is located across SM City Tarlac, and is open daily, 2 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. on weekends. Operating hours usually extend until 2 a.m.

Karting involves riding a four-wheel open vehicle, a kart, and driving it at full speed on a course. It is generally safe, and kids 4-11 and above can ride. Riders first watch an instruction video showing rules and are informed of the dos and don'ts. No standing, no bumping other karts, watch out for oncoming vehicles, raise your hands up if you're in trouble. Helmets and safety vests are provided. Marshals are stationed in the pit to watch out for any accidents.

Rates are P120 for five laps and P200 for 10 laps. A "coupon" will inform you if you are already going into your 10th lap. The course is well-padded with rubber tires in case one misses the brakes.

Call Pio Aniceto at 0917-6009868

BAMBOO vases (below tall) and picture frames at the wall. Wood inspirations corners, Bless and Ray Pascual

WOOD INSPIRATIONS

For souvenirs and home accents, head off to Wood Inspirations in Tarlac City. Here, you can find functional and decorative bamboo items—vases, pen and napkin holders, photo frames, fridge magnets, even trophies. Bamboo lamps, which often go to waste, are recycled into these products. The items are also sold in Boracay and Tagaytay. Filipinesia shops in Metro Manila.

Ella Ignacio, Tarlac Int. 2017, 0906-2372

Bam Aquino and his Tarlac

From page F1

through the Ateneo Program.

Sometime in 2007, he joined the board of PagcilHitched Inc., another social business enterprise that helps underprivileged women with livelihood projects.

Bam has won numerous awards for his work, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in 2010 in the Social Enterprise and Community Development category; the Young Global Leader Award by the World Economic Forum; and the Asian Social Entrepreneur of the Year in 2011 by the World Economic Forum. Also in 2011, the Ateneo Program funded 800 social enterprises from all over the world to win the United Nations Project Inspire Award.

Despite all his awards and achievements, Bam remains humble and unaffected. "I would like to be remembered as a good son, a good friend, and someone who never stopped believing," he says.

Here, he takes us around his Tarlac and his SM.

'Whenever I go to SM, I visit the Cybersense because I love gadgets. I am a technophile, and I was probably the happiest person when Cybersense first opened in SM.'

BAM at the Cybersense in SM City Tarlac

"Our family used to go to SM together when I was young. First it was Megamall, then Alabang Town Center, then Greenhills, and now my office is near SM Mandaluyong."

"THE PRICES in SM are very affordable, and it is nice to know that there is an SM within every other town which you can go to."

SM City Tarlac has changed the standards of shopping, leisure and entertainment in the Melting Pot of Central Luzon.

"When I was growing up, we would spend summers in Concepcion, Tarlac, so I always look at our ancestral home with a child's fondness. Our house is walking distance from the church, the park and practically everything else. And for a city boy, this was very refreshing.

Built before World War II, our ancestral home has been witness to many historical events, including Tito Mercy's years as a public servant, and the struggle against the dictatorship in the 1980s. Most of all, the Concepcion house reminds me of my Lola, whom I was very close to. She loved the house, and she loved Concepcion."

BAM and SM Vice President for Marketing Millie Dizon in the showcase replica of the Aquino ancestral home during the My City, My SM launch in SM City Tarlac.

Three generations of Aquinos have lived in the Aquino ancestral home in Concepcion, Tarlac, since it was built in 1918 with the help of wood craftsmen from Pampanga. These included General Servillano Aquino, Benigno Aquino Sr. and the late Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., who was born there and lived there when he was mayor of Concepcion, Tarlac.

The National Historical Commission declared the Aquino home a historical landmark in 1983. Surviving Aquino family members have decided to renovate the house so that the public can further appreciate its historical value.

'There are many interesting historical stops one can visit in Tarlac.'

Tarlac is a cradle of noble heroes like the Aquinos who have done so much for our country. The Capas National Shrine is a memorial to the Filipino and American soldiers who died in Camp O'Donnell at the end of the Bataan Death March. Built by the Philippine government, the shrine encompasses 24 hectares filled with trees commemorating the deceased. A new memorial hall and obelisk were unveiled on April 9, 2005.

The ancestral homes of Carlos P. Romulo, the country's greatest diplomat, and Jaime Bilena, both in Camiling, are among other interesting historical sites. Personal articles and furniture owned by Bilena, as well as items written by Dr. José Rizal can be found in the home of Leonor Rivera, immortalized as Maria Clara in the National Hero's novels.

BAM with pioneer Hapinoy "nanays" Edelia Miranda and Nelia Manzanas. The Hapinoy Program, which began a few years ago, is a multi-awarded social enterprise that goes beyond the traditional concept of charity. The program aims to empower micro-entrepreneurs by giving them assistance, opportunity and knowledge.

"My work now is in social enterprise. We help poor women in the countryside through Hapinoy.com. What we do is help support micro-entrepreneurs like 'sari-sari' store owners or local producers in an area.

"If you are developing a community, it has to be regular and with constant intervention. And for us, it's best done through a business model.

"We assist them in doing their business through training, financing and business support. Our belief is that if the small and micro businesses are stronger, the community can be more resilient. 'We are already in 300 communities and are expanding nationwide next year. The more people we will be able to help, the more we will be able to help the country."

AZASA GARDEN RESORT

Whitney is the theme of Azasa Garden Resorts, an events venue in Capas, Tarlac. It sits on a 12-ha property with a private lake for volleyball and kite-flying, cabanas for boating, swimming pool, and several rooms done with country chic interiors for overnight guests.

Other specialties are Sinigang na Lechon Kawali, Tinuktok ang Bagnet with bagoong dressing, Embotidong Bangus, Ginataang Mais (chicken thigh up and deep-fried), Bagoong sa Atsuete, Hawaiian Baka sa mocha and star flavors, Ayro-Ayro, taste chemist dessert.

Mc Arthur Highway, Barrio Capas, Tarlac. Tarlac: (045) 982-1182. www.azasagardenresort.com

BRIDGE outdoor area

Tarlac table surprises

–'pancit buko, embotidong bangus, inasal sinigang,' broccoli pasta

By Irene C. Perez

TARLAC CUISINE is a mix of Tagalog and Kapampangan cooking. The restaurants in the area have come up with new ideas to liven up old favorites. Try out the pancit buko, inasal sinigang, pizza rolled in mustard leaves, broccoli pasta, and some rich chicharon (cracklings) for good measure.

KART CITY

Food was an all-brilliant in Kart City, which is primarily a karting racetrack, until customers got tired of convenience-store snacks and started looking for "real food." An manager Pho Asiga put it, "neglected na ako sa kay mo-dito." After brainstorming with his friends and co-owners, he established a food venue that now offers, among others, Chicharon Bulaklak, Mini Tacos, Buffalo Wings—which is also good pulutan (but no drinking while karting!); soup choices such as Clam Chowder, Chunky Beef, Crab and Corn; Sizzling Treats, Rib Eye, Porterhouse, Angus, Grilled Beef Ribs, Lamb Chops, Baby Back Ribs, Tapa. Those who prefer seafood can have Sizzling Tuna Panga, Grilled Squid and Salmon Steak.

Families usually dine on weekends, and items good for sharing are Sinigang, Kare-Kare, Crispy Pata, Pata Tim. There's also Pizza Roll—pizza strips rolled with crisp mustard leaves, burgers and sandwiches.

If you crave for something Japanese, you can have Tonkatsu or Salmon Sashimi. Or relish Kobeshin All-day breakfast is also available.

Kart City is on level 3M City Tarlac. Call (+63) 045 491 8063.

TASTE of Laoag in 3M City Tarlac: food seen often on the tables of Laoag Langgonisa, Crispy Dinengdeng, Pinapaitan na Bulanglang Bangus, Poqui Poqui (pureed grilled eggplant), Sinanglan (beef ribs in spiced soup), Inon Empanada and Bidaligan

BUAKOD Pagbuloy Pinoy (avoid-dining) restaurant in SM City Tarlac offers grilled fish and meat, Nilaing na Hipon, Bulanglang na Hipon, Kinilaw na Tanigue, Ensaymadang Manok

GUBY'S

Guby's isn't in SM City Tarlac dishes survived. It's signature product? Perfectly crispy and meaty chicharon—dried, salted and fried pork rind or skin. So the menu are different chicharon variations: Sinuka, Bulaklak, Chicken Kilis, Chicken Skin, Chicken Isaw, Chicken Pope, Lamon, Balat. Guby's chicharon corner is one of the best we've had: crunchy but not hard, not too salty or oily.

CHICHARON Lamon

JELEXIE pastries

BLACK Forest Cakes

JELEXIE

Jelexie Bakeshop in SM City Tarlac is known for good quality and affordable bread and pastries. Bestsellers are the cakes: Choco Dream Cake, Black Forest, Choco Marble, Banoffee Pie, Ube Cake, Chiffon and Cassava Cake; plus cake rolls in Mocha, Choco Fudge and Vanilla Flavors.

Cookies, Double Chocolate Cookies and Chocolate Chip Cookies are sold by plastic jars. There is also an assortment of breads: sponge ball, sweets, raisin bread, cheese roll, ube and cheese ensaymada, pandesal rolls, mini cassava bread.

Jelexie is an acronym derived from the names of owner Armando Tan's siblings: Jimmy, Eric, Ellie and Laura. The bakeshop, artfully installed in Tarlac, has over 20 branches in Central Luzon.

Main branch is at 6868 McArthur Highway, Bgy. Lagundi, Sinigang Carmata, Paniqui, Tarlac. Tel. (06 7) 635-6907; e-mail: jelexie_bakeshop@yahoo.com

COOKIES and cookies

LUTONG BAHAY BUFFET

We arrived around lunch time at Lutong Bahay, a buffet restaurant with a bahay-kubo theme, and it was full, with two wedding receptions taking place. For P165 you can have a buffet feast consisting of a dozen Filipino dishes, all laid out on the counter. The spread includes Inchorwa sungay ahoy, Aara at mantaka, seafood Kare-Kare, Batchoy sa repolyo, beef caldereta chopped with cheese, pasta with broccoli in cream sauce, Dessert is banana with sago, sweet corn cake and fruits.

Mabua Farms picked up the buffet tray last year. It is open from 8 a.m. 8 p.m. Weddings are usual during weekends, as well as birthdays and traditional receptions. Business has been good, said Sonya. Another kudo, the food air-conditioned, was built tabled year to accommodate more diners.

Km. 84 Nat'l Hwy., Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Capas, Tarlac. Call (045) 982-2726/28.

BEEF caldereta with cheese

HALABOS na Hipon; Creamy Pasta with Broccoli

HOLY Cross chapel with Baroque-style interiors

THE CATHEDRAL was once the site of the Revolutionary Congress.

18-FT statue of the Risen Christ on a hill

PHOTOS BY ROJAN CRISOSTOMO

Sanctuaries of silence and prayer

By Fran Rodjhak

THEY SAY nature takes you closer to God, and God can be found in nature. Monasterio de Tarlac, perched 200 meters above sea level, has brought these words to life for Catholic devotees and churchgoers in nearby communities.

The monastery on top of Mount of Resurrection, Evor Tourism Park in San Jose has well-manicured gardens, lush foliage and trees to shade those who prefer to meditate and say their prayers right next to nature. Scary winds, a blanket of clear blue skies and a stark white 30-ft statue of the Risen Christ, which resembles Brazil's Christ the Redeemer, complete the picture-perfect outdoor place of worship.

But saying one's prayer indoors can be spiritual, too.

The 30-hectare park features the Holy Cross chapel, whose small structure is made grand by Baroque-style interiors. Although it can accommodate only 50 people, it is the sanctuary of what is said to be an actual fragment of the true cross of Christ.

The relic, brought to the Philippines in 2007 by its former custodians, German monks from the Diocese of Essen, is layed out for viewing only twice a year: The first, Jan. 30, celebrates the day the sacred relic was enshrined at Monasterio de Tarlac. The second, Sept. 14, celebrates the feast of the Triumph of the Cross and the EPC community's foundation day.

For the rest of the year, the relic is stored in a silver pagoda with engravings of curled vines and staircases. The container is kept behind heavily gilded doors at the foot of the church altar and closely guarded by local police. Monks of the Servants of the Risen Christ Monastic Community come to venerate the relic seven times a day.

The monks, along with the rest of the congregation, which consists of The Contemplative Nuns, The Handmaids, Sisters of the Risen Christ and the Ivy Tertiaries of the Risen Christ, are all custodians of the Relic of the Holy Cross.

Monasterio de Tarlac is at Mount of Resurrection, Evor Tourism Park, San Jose. Tel. No.: 886-4900007, 0910-7908814; www.monasterio-de-tarlac.weebly.com

Holy Cross chapel is open every day except Thursday. Mass is held 10:30 a.m. and on Sundays, 3 p.m.

Impressive history

In the city, locals and visitors have San Sebastian Cathedral as prayer sanctuary.

The cathedral has quite an impressive history, having once been the site of the Revolutionary Congress. In the 1980s, as the former Tarlac Catholic Convent, it had the honor of being the highest Filipino seat of learning when Literador Gaspillitos Universidad was numbered to Tarlac City from Malolos, Bulacan.

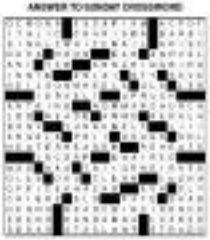
It now hosts the visiting image of Fatima, and will celebrate this year's feasts on Jan. 20.

San Sebastian Cathedral is at Poblacion, Tarlac City, Tarlac. Tel. 886-8826180, 886-8826577, look for Dong Soriano.

LONG walk to the cathedral's altar. At right, stained glass panel behind the San Sebastian altar

SAN SEBASTIAN Cathedral

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Five PH films in Goteborg

APART FROM MARI-ALDA'S "Isla Child of the Philippines," four other Filipino films will be screened at the Goteborg International Film Festival in Sweden from Jan. 27 to Feb. 6, also to be shown are Sherwin Sandoval's "Sarbasho," Quark Henares' "Nakaraan," Jim Libiran's "Magsimula Ka" and Loy Arcenas' "Niño."

CHEER FACTOR

Tribute to silent films is US critics' top pick

LOS ANGELES—"The Artist" notched many wins in the first wave of Hollywood's awards season.

The black-and-white ode to the silent film era is directed by Michel Hazanavicius and released with Four Seasons Entertainment. Following its 17th annual Critics' Choice Awards, which were presented by the 220 members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

"The Artist" took the evening's top prize. Best Picture, as well as honors for Best Score, Costume Design and Director.

"I made a silent movie," French director Hazanavicius joked in English while accepting the award for Best Picture. "I don't like to speak so much."

"The Help," the adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel about black maids speaking out about their white employers' during the civil-rights movement, followed behind "The Artist" with three wins in the ceremony's acting categories: Viola Davis as Best Actress, Octavia Spencer as Best Supporting Actress and the film's cast as Best Acting Ensemble.

"I absolutely knew I wanted to be an actress because I wanted to be somebody," an emotional Davis said in her acceptance speech. "I wanted to dream big and make a mark somehow. That's something absolutely that Abilene was not afforded. I considered it my honor to pay homage to these women ... who were not allowed to dream and find their purpose."

Others who accepted trophies at the lavish Hollywood Palladium ceremony included George Clooney as Best Actor for "The Descendants," Christopher Plummer as Best Supporting Actor for "Beginners" and Thomas Horn as Best Young Actor for "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

"Frankly, I didn't even sing, but I would get this, but I did," boasted a surprised Horn.

Filmmakers Paul Schrier and Bob Hoebel hosted the ceremony, which was broadcast live on VH1.

The winners' circle

- Picture: "The Artist"
- Actor: George Clooney, "The Descendants"
- Actress: Viola Davis, "The Help"
- Supporting actor: Christopher Plummer, "Beginners"
- Supporting actress: Octavia Spencer, "The Help"
- Acting ensemble: "The Help"
- Director: Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist"
- Original screenplay: Woody

VIOLA Davis and Emma Stone in "The Help"

A Golden Globe scenario

BRAD Pitt and Angelina Jolie in Cannes this year. They are always mobbed at the premiere table.

LOS ANGELES—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are expected to occupy the prime table inside the International Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills during the 69th Golden Globe Awards this evening, Jan. 15 (tomorrow morning in Manila).

But The Metropolitan Co. exhibitionist (or equally interesting based on its nominees—irreverent comedienne Lucy Mercer Stroup, Madonna and Michelle Pfeiffer.

George Clooney, who is nominated for Best Actor-Drama ("The Descendants") and Best Director ("The Ides of March"), is expected to attend with his girlfriend, Stacy Keibler.

DreamWorks' nominee does should also make for a romantic 4th getup—Jennifer Chastain, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer and Mary J. Blige.

Viggo Mortensen, up for the Best Supporting Actor prize ("A Dangerous Method"), and Bridesmaids' director Paul Feig's Best Picture Comedy or Musical nominee "The Help" are also expected to attend.

GEORGE Clooney (here shown at the Venice Film Festival) is expected to attend with girlfriend Stacy Keibler.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Other nominees include Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Rooney Mara, Elizabeth Olsen, Michelle Williams, Kristen Wiig, Jessica Chastain, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Jodie Foster, Charlize Theron, Kirsten Dunst

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A Golden Globe scenario

From page G1

Film nominee, "A Separation") and Bennett Miller ("Moneyball"), just to mention a few.

Among the stars presenting awards honoring excellence in film and television are Johnny Depp, Nicole Kidman, Clive Owen, Renee Zellweger, Natalie Portman, Helen Mirren, Robert Downey Jr., Mark Wahlberg, Jessica Biel, Freida Pinto, Adam Levine, Jake Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman, Emma McGregor, Bob Lowe, Channing Tatum, Jane Lynch, Harrison Ford, Jane Fonda and Bradley Cooper, Eva Arnold, "The Governator" Schwarzenegger is coming.

And with Ricky Gervais presiding over the festivities, count on him to inject a dose of unpredictability into the much-anticipated Hollywood party of the year.

E-mail the columnist at cynajohn_2005@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/topdoctalon.

MICHELLE Williams

MADONNA

MERYL Streep

NIGEL Byrne, Melissa McCarthy, Maya Rudolph, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Kristen Wiig and Ellie Kemper in "Bridesmaids"

CAREY Mulligan in "Drive"

Eyes and ears on Ricky Gervais...

From page G1

Picture Arts and Sciences.

A boastful Golden Globes acceptance speech for Best Actor or Actress, for example, may indeed cause voters to a star and propel them to victory throughout Hollywood's 366 award season. "The Golden Globes is your Oscar audition," said veteran awards watcher Sam O'Neil of website GoldderAccess.

Six nods

"The Artist," a romantic tribute to the style of old Hollywood and a tribute to the silent era, leads into the Globes ceremony with six nominations, more than any other film, including Best Comedy or Musical.

The movie has charmed Hollywood this awards season and looks a sure pick to claim the prize, but could face competition from popular comedy "Bridesmaids."

Golden Globe voters also got a mixture of Best Film Drama and in that category "The Descendants," starring Clooney as a father trying to keep his family together during a crisis, has the strongest shot at walking off a victor, O'Neil said.

Among actors and actresses, Streep looks a good bet to win their thirteen in a career for her portrayal of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady," although she would have a challenge from Viola Davis in "The Help."

Michelle Williams rumpus for Best Actress in a Movie Musical or Comedy in "My Week with Marilyn" against the likes of "Saturday Night Live" comedian Kristen Wiig for "Bridesmaids."

Clooney nods "Descendants" titles co-Octagenarian "I. Edgar" and Pitt in "Moneyball" in the Best Drama Actor category and

"Artist" star, Frenchman, Jean Dujardin, is among the top nominees for Best actor in a Film Musical or Comedy.

While the film categories are main shortly notched be-

some of their impact on the Oscar race, Golden Globe wraps pick TV favorites, too, and have a tendency to elevate new shows and freshchoos.

Past favorites

Psychological thriller "Homeland" is among new shows competing for Best Drama Series, joining no other newcomers like "American Horror Story" and "Game of Thrones."

Best Comedy Program nominees feature past favorites such as "Glee" and "Modern Family," O'Neil said "New Girl" actress Zooey Deschanel could easily take the stage for Best Actress in a Comedy scoring four stars in as this year's shortest fresh face on TV.

Reuters

Tribute...

From page G1

allan, "Midnight in Paris."

- Adapted screenplay: Steven Zaillian, Aaron Sorkin and Stan Chervin, "Moneyball."
- Cinematography: "The Tree of Life" and "War Horse" (tie)
- Art direction: "Hugo."
- Editing: "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."
- Costume design: "The Artist."
- Makeup: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2."
- Visual effects: "Rise of the Planet of the Apes."
- Sound: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2."
- Animated feature: "Rango."
- Action movie: "Drive."
- Comedy movie: "Bridesmaids."
- Foreign language film: "A Separation."
- Documentary feature: "George Harrison: Living in the Material World."
- Song: "Life's a Happy Song," from "Muppets and the Muppets," "The Muppets."
- Score: "The Artist."
- Jean Hersholt award: Sean Penn

AP

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Katy Perry leads absentee winners at People's Choice awards

LOS ANGELES—Katy Perry is in the popular clique now.

The singer-actress won the most People's Choice Awards at Wednesday's 38th annual fan-favorite extravaganza, but viewers wouldn't have known if from watching the ceremony.

An absentee Perry was honored in five categories, including favorite female artist, tour headliner, song of the year for "E.T." with Kanye West, music video for "Last Friday Night" and TV guest star for "How I Met Your Mother."

People originally being hosted by the show's organizers as among the nominees reported to attend, Perry told fans on Twitter earlier this week that she wouldn't make it to the show but that "I want to thank u all for voting for me, fingers crossed!"

It would have marked Perry's first public appearance since British actor-comedian Russell Brand filed for a divorce from Perry last month after 14 months of marriage.

Four for 'Potter'

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the final installment of the magical film series starring Daniel Radcliffe, Hollywood fobbed Perry with four wins for its comic movie, action movie, book adaptation and ensemble movie cast. But the films' chief actress's presence at the ceremony, either, leaving more screen time on the CBS broadcast for other winners in the show's 43 categories, honoring TV, film and music.

Ellen DeGeneres, Nina Dobrev, Chloe Grace Moretz, Adam Levine, Lea Michele and Demi Lovato, who performed "Give Your Heart a Break," were among the winners on hand to accept their awards selected by listeners' votes.

Another no-show

"For all the Rachel Berry out there, this one's for you guys," said Michele, who won as favorite comedy TV actress for her "Glee" role.

Emma Stone and Johnny Depp—another no-show—won two trophies at the ceremony, which was hosted by "The Big Bang Theory" star Kaley Cuoco. Depp and Stone, respectively, won the favorite movie actor and actress awards, while Depp was also honored as favorite animated movie voice for "Rango," and Stone was selected as favorite comedic movie actress.

"I moved to LA eight years ago this week with my mom, who's right there," Stone said while accepting her pair of crystal trophies. "It is so insane to be standing up here right now. It is hard to describe to you."

TV winners

Among the TV winners were "How I Met Your Mother" for TV comedy, "Two Broke Girls" for new TV comedy, "Hot in Cleveland" for cable TV comedy, Neil Patrick Harris for TV comedy actor, "Supernatural" for TV drama and sci-fi/fantasy show, "Person of Interest" for new TV drama, "Pretty Little Liars" for cable TV drama and Hallmark Hall of Fame for TV drama actor.

Winners in the movie categories included Meryl Streep for action star, "Bridesmaids" for comedy movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" for drama movie, Adam Sandler for comedic movie actor and Ryan Reynolds as Green Lantern for favorite superhero. Morgan Freeman was honored with the fan-favorite movie you crossed.

"When I found out that I'd been nominated for the first-ever People's Choice movie you award, I shrieked so loud up your," Freeman said. "There's no way I found The first definition cool as you is a true picture on a computer screen that represents a file." AP

KATY Perry is an artist in Mexico but pics.

'Tango Fire' for 2 nights

Debby Ryan, cool nerd

By Oliver H. Palombachi
Contributor

"I'D LOVE to be the next Tina Fey," says Disney "princess" Debby Ryan.

THEN actress Debby Ryan isn't the typical Disney "princess." The "Suite Life on Deck" star admits she's a nerd who sometimes talks a lot about geeky topics without realizing it.

But like the regular Disney heroine, she struggled with bullies in school and later emerged triumphant.

Ryan, 18, opened up about the challenges of growing up, among other things, in a recent phone interview with Inquirer. She stars in the new Disney circom "Jessie," which debuted last September in the United States and will be airing in Asia this March. She's being touted by some as the "next" Miley Cyrus or Selena Gomez.

"It's funny but it's definitely a progression," Ryan said. "I really want to have a long career like one is ever gonna be the next Miley or the next Selena. I would love to be the next anyone. I love having a connection in all my projects."

She identifies more with the former "Hannah Montana" costar and "30 Rock" creator Tina Fey. "I'd love to be that next Tina Fey or someone like that—people [who] are able to be funny on top of just being pretty successful. I feel as though I would make me and myself the most with my face and they're totally unattractive! And I'm totally okay with it. I can gravel or even have cake on my face. That's what I love about my job: I can be silly and make people laugh!"

Like Jessie

Ryan played country girl Jessie Prescott in "Suite Life on Deck" for three seasons. In "Jessie," she plays a Texan girl who moves to New York and becomes a nanny to four kids. Ryan can relate to Jessie in some degree, having helped out elementary back when she was younger.

"I was home-schooled, secondary and in classes and I was the kid who would raise [her hand to answer] questions, and I was reading for the fun of it," she recalled. "And the one reason other people talked to me would be to ask, 'Hey, how did I do in my test?' And I'd be like, 'Yeah you got a B.' You missed some tough questions; I'll tutor you if you want."

But it was also tough being "different." "I was made fun of for being academically accelerated, being in the chess club, being homeschooled. Living in Gormley," Ryan revealed. "I was the Gormley kid when I got back to school and they were like bullying me. But I was fine, mostly and then I didn't belong there. ... It was really hard to ignore those bullies. On my first week, I would get shoved and pushed, all my books on the floor while I was in the hallway at school. When I started pretending I had a secret and acting like I owned the place, that was when I realized that they didn't have any power over me."

She added, "People will call you everything and with Hollywood, all those things are magnified. It's important to be being able to stand up for yourself."

Now idolized by teen and tween fans, Ryan is appreciative of her own female role models. Aside from Fey, whom she describes as "quick, witty and very enthusiastic," Ryan is also inspired by actress Natalie Portman and rock star Joan Jett. "Joan Jett, I don't control a new office," Ryan said. "She's like, 'Girls don't rock, so I'm a girl and I'm gonna rock, let's do this!' I find I'm inspired by people who don't take no for an answer."

Ryan also loves writing music, poems, and song lyrics. She recognizes her growth in the business, and keeps in mind the importance of individuality.

"My concern is not to be what only people say about you," she said. "Know who you are, know what you stand for and don't put any attention to what people are saying!"

"Suite Life on Deck" airs Sundays, 11:30 p.m. on Disney Channel. "Jessie" will air Saturdays, 8:00 p.m. starting March 31.

Celebrity fortune

Reva Kim gave his fortune told by the Tent of the White Dragon, along with other celebrities under the dragon tent. Mr. Kim's fortune-tellers, Maja Salvador, Tuesday Dee and Pido Pascual, in today's episode of "Maraviglioso." He also knows about the origins of the mythical reptile and discovers the warmth and inspiration behind it.

The weekly science-centric show airs Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN.

Impeachment trial

"The Chief Justice on Trial," the live coverage on GMA News TV of the impeachment trial of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona, airs Monday to Thursday starting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. (except on "Quiz Bowl Pinoy Edition" at 4 p.m.).

Anchored by Arnold Clavio and Vicky Morales, it includes media and academic Dean experts in Constitutional Law.

Starting Tuesday, highlights will be shown on "Dobol B sa News TV," "News To Go," "Imbestigador," "News TV Live" and "The Chief Justice on Trial Report" at 10:30 a.m.

On GMA 7, updates are on "GMA Flash Report," with recaps on "24 Oras," "Saksi" and "Unang Hirit." The trial is broadcast live via QTV and available online on pinoyexpress.tv/livestream.

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ENTERING HE DAN MO: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30

SEQUENZIA BANG: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

ROSSE HUSBAND: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30

SHERLOCK HOLMES: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:30

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TAKE FIVE

ACTORS Cherry Pie Picache and Beatrice Roco and director Adolfo Alix Jr. (in bagumbo). They suspect that the baths that he used in the film have been re-us...

Close encounter with 'Bourne' star that would never happen in H'wood

By the Entertainment Staff

A PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER reporter (me) the Manila Pen Wednesday night on a chance that he might run into a "Bourne Legacy" star. Okay, it was more of following a tip than taking a chance.

At The Bar he did run into a big one—no less than Jeremy Renner, who plays the lead character Aaron Cross in the spy thriller directed by Tony Gilroy.

Perhaps taking note of the very pre-making camera, Renner extended his hand and said, "Hi, I'm Jeremy. I'm glad to meet you." This was followed by an earnest request to not take his picture, since he was having a drink. But he was fully clothed and wasn't on the floor or throwing up! What was wrong with being photographed while having a drink?

We were told earlier that the Philippines had been picked as one of the locations for the movie because of its "smiling, friendly people." Maybe on Renner's list would never have worked with the Hollywood paparazzi.

Politely declined

Speaking of "Bourne Legacy" ... Publicity Wizard wanted desperately to land a cameo on the flick. Synopsis: Hollywood's ... PH asked Inflation Initiative to pull strings. It's Usher'ings, who had tripped all over themselves giving us PH's every whim in the past. Inflated rhetoric.

A snide whispered that the international production "politely declined" the generous offer. After all, real professional actors with discernible skills vied for small roles by going through three rounds of auditions. We couldn't just turkey into the set with family connections as collateral.

Vodka in a jug

Veteran Performer was once the toast of Show Town—in demand, not just among producers but also among gentlemen callers.

Top Honcho was among her many suitors.

But after a romantic tour-deux abroad, not to mention the passing of her beloved parents, VP got depressed.

According to a mole, VP moved in house to ease the pain. These days, VP is often seen worrying a thermos with the logo of a popular coffee shop. It's not a caffeine fix; the jug contains vodka.

To her credit, the ultimate performer is still every inch a showstopper.

Multiple versions

Imelda Ruby-Armacost boasts of win upheat to learn that the box office results of certain films had been less than Pure-ecstatic.

Quite tellingly, there was a P30-million discrepancy in the figures in versions 1 and 2.

RUSHES

SMART Evangelista

Things go swimmingly for the traveling 'Isda'

By Reuters Says Deguzman and the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

INDIE director Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Isda," also known as "Fable of the Fish," has been "swimming" to various festivals all over the world, making it one of the best-traveled films of last year.

Before 2011 ended, it had been screened in Busan, Toronto, Hong Kong, Kerala (India), Buenos Aires (...) and Dubai.

The film is headed for another festival, in Goteborg, Sweden, from Jan. 27 to Feb. 6.

Along the way, the Cinemalaya film about Lina, a woman who gives birth to a fish (specifically a balo-chick), has earned good reviews.

Hollywood trade paper Variety said its "precisely framed, color-desaturated framing, expresses the hellish landscape of the garbage dumps as it swarms with activity."

At the Hong Kong fest, Time Out called it "solid and assured," hailing lead actress Cherry Pie Picache (who plays Lina) as "superb [and] ... the grungy neighborhood [as] great forces search."

After it was shown in Toronto, Huggers praised the film as well. Rhapsody.com's Danielle D'Emilio noted: It "has a careful tone, never mocking or laughing at Lina." Excal.on.ca's Leslie Armstrong wrote, "The film is an exact reminder and solution, allowing a moment of incredulity ... but relaxing some profundity."

"Isda" allowed one of its stars, ac-

(CONTINUED ON A2)

Help wind Pawpa to Berlin talent meet

Things to . . .

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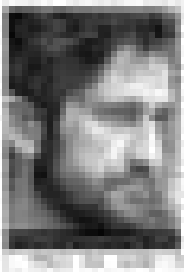
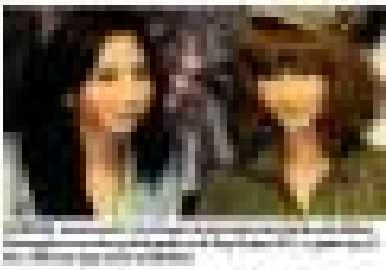


GINA CARANO'S

"HAYWIRE"

MAKES HER 'SALT' AND 'JAMES BOND' COMEBACK



Once or twice . . .

Pilar Pilapil stars with British actress Virginia McKenna in migration drama

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The Big Toy Clearance Sale is ongoing until January 31 at Toy Kingdom stores at selected SM Supermalls and Toy Kingdom Express at all SM Department Stores. Visit our website at www.toykingdom.ph.

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We are currently seeking talents to join the organization in our aggressive expansion goal to expand our opportunities. Because of this, we would like to invite you for interview and testing to further discuss our job opportunities for a permanent employment, and have you join our reinsurance group.

SALES OFFICE HEADS

Work Location: Cebu, Dagupan, Las Piñas, Ortigas, Iloilo

Job Description:

Responsible for the training, development and supervision of a team of exclusive agents and the promotion of the Sales Office in the locality. He/She manages the Sales Office, eventually establishing satellite offices, and exercising general supervision over the satellite sales offices. Key Areas involve office management, sales management, agency recruitment, agency training, field sales training, and customer service.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a four-year course
- At least 2 years experience in a sales job
- Leadership skills
- Willing to be trained
- Excellent communication skills

SALES OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Job Description:

Responsible for assisting the Sales Office Head in developing business, maintaining, updating, and meeting the production goals of the branch by preparation of proposals, and issuance of initial and renewal policies.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a four-year course
- Knowledge of computer operations
- No work experience necessary

Interested candidates may email your resumé at miicjobs@mapfreinsular.com

MAPFRE INSULAR

Australian Government
AusAID

REQUEST FOR TENDER

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) manages the Australian Government's official overseas aid program. AusAID assists developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in line with Australia's national interest. AusAID is seeking a contractor to undertake the following development program in the Philippines:

BASIC EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR MINDANAO – AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BEAM-ARMM) PROGRAM

The Australia-Philippines Development Strategy highlights Australia's support in improving access to and quality of basic education for Filipino children. The Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BEAM-ARMM) program is designed to assist the Government of the Philippines improve the delivery and governance of basic education in ARMM.

The contractor for the BEAM-ARMM will cover specific components: Component 1 on Basic Education; and Component 2 on Technical Vocational and Skills Development for the Out-of-School Youth and Support to DepED ARMM's Overall Program Monitoring and Evaluation. The overarching goal of the program is to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in ARMM and in the longer term, the emergence of peace through targeted investments in basic education.

The Program's objectives are to:

- Improve access, participation and completion rates in basic education;
- Improve learning achievement in functional literacy and numeracy in elementary education; improve the quality of teaching in English, Mathematics and Science in secondary;
- develop employment related skills for senior secondary level and for out-of-school youth; and
- Improve management systems within DepED ARMM.

It is anticipated that the **Program** will commence in **June 2012** and will continue up to **30 June 2015**.

Selection will be on a **one** step tender basis. The closing date for submission of proposals is **2:00pm (Canberra time) Tuesday, 28 February 2012**.

Tender documents are available on the AusTender website: https://www.tenders.gov.au/

All enquiries should be addressed to Byron Dingilne at email **beamarmm@ausaid.gov.au**

Wanted: Top-class Faculty Members

Join the high-caliber faculty members of AMA International University Bahrain (AMAIUB). Teaching positions are open for the following colleges:

COLLEGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SCIENCES
Banking and Finance • Human Resource Management • Project Management • International Studies • E-commerce • Marketing • General Management • Accounting

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
General Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Computer Engineering • Electronics and Communications Engineering • Electrical Engineering

COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES
COMPUTER SCIENCE – Professors in Java and .NET programming • INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – Professor in Oracle and SQL • INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Professors in Web Development, Multimedia and Graphics

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Anatomy • Biochemistry • Physiology • Pharmacology • Pathology • Forensic Medicine • Microbiology and Pathology • Family and Community Medicine • Research Specialist • Surgery • Internal Medicine • Pediatrics • Obstetrics & Gynecology • ENT • Ophthalmology • Neurology • Biology • Embryology • Hispanology • Psychiatry

CENTER FOR GENERAL EDUCATION
Mathematics • Languages and Literature: English, French, Spanish • Humanities and Social Science (Psychology, Philosophy, History)

Qualifications

- **Must have a Doctorate degree from a reputable university preferably graduate of UK/Ateneo, De La Salle, UST, San Beda, Nagoya**
- **Must have international publications**
- **With teaching experience in the area of specialization**
- **Not over 55 years old. Physically fit to travel and work abroad**
- **With valid passport for at least six (6) months**

Compensation Package

- **Remuneration starts at Php 111,000/month, tax-free**
- **Free airfare to Bahrain**
- **Transportation and accommodation allowance**
- **Paid one-month annual vacation leave with free airfare and indemnity pay**

Interested applicants may apply in person:
AMA Corporate Office: 5th AMA Building, Ayala Avenue, Cor. Makati
or send your resume to **endaelumaan.ama.ph / recruitment.ama@hotmail.com**

For more information, call: 373-3901 Loc. 6268 / 8249
www.amaiu.edu.bh

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PROFESSIONAL NURSING 101

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2. Accounting Head, Female, graduate, with experience, computer literate
3. Office Staff, computer literate, preferably with experience

Please email your resume at
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JOB VACANCIES

Division: Special Concerns Technical Cluster (SCTC)
Office: Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (DDAPTP)

Position/SG: Architect III / SG 15

Qualifications
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Architecture
Experience: 3 yrs. Experience in conceptualization, design, cost estimating, specifications writing and construction of building projects. i.e. health infrastructures
Training: None required
Eligibility: RA 1080

Position/SG: Electrical Engineer II / SG 15

Qualifications
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Electric Engineering
Experience: 3 yrs. Experience in electrical design, analysis, cost estimating, specification writing, and supervision of electrical works of building projects, especially health infrastructures
Training: Project Management, Current Trends and Methods in Electrical Design
Eligibility: RA 1080

Position/SG: Draftsman II / SG 9

Qualifications
Education: 2 years College
Experience: 1 yr. Related experience
Training: technical/skills Training

Qualified applicants may file their application together with the following documents at the DDH Central Office – Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program:

- Resume
- Photocopy of Transcript of Records
- Photocopy of PRC License and Certificate of Eligibility
- Photocopy of trainings
- Letter of application addressed to:

Dr. BENJAMIN P. REYES
Program Manager
Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program
Department of Health
Bldg. 16 San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

(PR - January 8, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Regional City

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENCY

The Board of Regents of the Cagayan State University (CSU), formally and publicly announces that the search for the next President of CSU is now open.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants for CSU Presidency must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen;
2. Must be at least forty-five (45) years old but not more than sixty-five (65) years old at the time of application (Full copies of birth certificate and/or Certificate of Live Birth);
3. Must be a holder of at least Master's degree;
4. Must be a holder of an appropriate Professional Board Eligibility;
5. Must have a proven high level of administrative experience in the academe, whether in public or private, or both, of at least five (5) years. This must be supported by documents duly certified by the Human Resource Management Officer (HRMO) or equivalent office of the employer(s) concerned, stating the position(s) occupied and the period covered;
6. Must have a proven track record in any administrative offense or of any other working bond violation;
7. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any other working bond violation.

Documentary Requirements:

Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of original and six (6) certified photocopies of the following documents to the CSU Secretariat:

1. Curriculum Vitae duly addressed to the Chairperson of the BOR;
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CS Form No. 212);
4. Authorization to Release Information and Clearance from Government Agencies (for clearance);
5. Certified photocopies from the following government agencies, obtained not more than one (1) month from the date of filing of application, indicating applicant has no pending or unresolved case, administrative and criminal cases:
   - Ombudsman
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
   - Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)
   - Sandiganbayan
   - Municipal/Regional Trial Court
   - Other offices/agencies where applicant is presently employed
6. Duly accomplished CSU Form No. 01, wherein:
7. NBI Clearance (per Item 5);
8. Barangay Certificate of Residency (Three years) for a physical from a government recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed;
9. Results of the NBI clearance conducted by a physical from a government recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed.

Interested applicants may secure the above mentioned documentary requirements at the Secretariat Office starting January 16, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. of the following:

Dr. Norma Ulat G. Rodillo
Chair, CSU BOR Search Committee
Cagayan State University
Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City

Dr. Elizabeth Pena
Vice Chair, CSU BOR Search Committee
Cagayan State University
Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City

DEADLINE

Those Without Qualifications:
Item No. 1 – An applicant who is not a natural born citizen of the Philippines;
Item No. 2 – An applicant who is not forty-five (45) years old but not more than sixty-five (65) years old as of the date of application;
Item No. 3 – An applicant who is not a holder of at least Master's degree;
Item No. 4 – An applicant who is not a holder of any appropriate Professional Board Eligibility;
Item No. 5 – An applicant who does not possess a proven high level of administrative experience in the academe, whether in public or private, or both, of at least five (5) years;
Item No. 6 – An applicant who has been convicted of any administrative offense or of any other working bond violation.

Those Not Complying Requirements:
Item No. 7 (Certified Copy) – The applicant has no finding of guilt/conviction in any administrative and/or criminal case;
Item No. 8 – The applicant has no pending administrative and/or criminal case.

URGENTLY NEEDED: FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES EXECUTIVE

FOR FOODS, PHARMACEUTICALS & INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

with the following qualifications:

- Female not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Chemistry or any related courses
- At least 2 years of professional experience in the field
- Computer literate and familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Excellent communication skill in English – both oral and written
- Honest, trustworthy, analytical, organized, detailed-oriented and team player.

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6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 891-1365

Rolando E. Abesamis
Administration Manager
mabesamis@menzi.ph

URGENTLY NEEDED

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male or female not more than 25 years of age
- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least two (2) years experience in general accounting and financial statements preparation
- Excellent communication skill in English – both oral and written
- Computer literate and familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Honest, trustworthy, analytical, detail-oriented, takes initiative and does not require close supervision

Interested applicants must submit personally their resumes (with photo) and transcript of records to:

MENZI AGRICULTURAL CORPORATION
20/F Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or e-mail to
mabesamis@menzi.ph

So you want to be part of a growing company distributing innovative products for specialty segments in the field of medicine?

We are in need of **Professional Health Care Representatives** for Bacolod-Iloilo & Cebu-Dumaguete-Bohol-Tacloban areas with the following qualifications:

- Male or Female, 23-28 years old, with pleasing personality
- Good communication skills
- A self starter, mature, responsible, honest
- Flexible, willing to work long hours
- Willing to travel
- Preferably with sales experience

If you possess the above qualities, we want you! Please send your resumé to **scriptmealinc@yahoo.com** or call Ms. Olive Papagaye @ 0917-5696245

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JOIN US! We are a growing CHINESE casual dining restaurant in need of HAPPY, YOUNG, DYNAMIC, and ENTHUSIASTIC people for the following position:

Assistant Managers

- Female at least 5'2" in height. Male at least 5'7" in height.
- College graduate preferably with HRM degree or business course.
- 25-28 years old, hardworking, honest and trustworthy.
- Has good leadership, communication and inter personal skills.
- Knows how to manage food cost, labor cost and other restaurant controllables.
- Can handle the morning schedules, employee discipline.
- Able to perform administrative duties and monthly reports on time.
- Has good moral character, personal integrity, people skills and self-discipline.
- Worked in a reputable restaurant for the last 5 years in the same capacity.
- Can work with flexible hours.

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume with passport photo and 2 contact numbers or emails to:

Attn: Human Resources Manager
Unit 901 Antel Global Corporate Center Bldg.
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Email: hrphcenter@yahoo.com

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unicef

unite for children

If you are a passionate and committed professional and want to make a lasting difference for children, the country's leading humanitarian organization would like to hear from you.

HEALTH & NUTRITION SPECIALIST

(UN National Officer Level 3)

Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Field Office, and the guidance of the Health in Development Section Chief, the incumbent will be responsible for the following:

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- [illegible]
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unicef

unite for children

If you are a passionate and committed professional and want to make a lasting difference for children, the country's leading humanitarian organization would like to hear from you.

COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

(UN National Officer Level 3)

Under the general guidance of the Chief of Communications, this post is responsible for the [illegible]

- [illegible]
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- [illegible]
- [illegible]
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- [illegible]

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

P.A. / Researcher
VTR Assistant
Recording Assistant
Creative Writers
Cameraman
System Engineer
Cableman

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TAPE Offices
75 Xavierville Ave., Xavierville Subd., Loyola Heights, Q.C.

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   - WITH GOOD WORK ETHICS AND ATTITUDE, WILLING TO LEARN
2. **ASSISTANTS**
   - MALE OR FEMALE, WITH AT LEAST 2 YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE
   - WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
   - WITH MOTIVATING FACE LEARNING POTENTIAL
   - WITH GOOD WORK ETHICS AND ATTITUDE
3. **MANICURISTS / NAIL TECHNICIANS**
   - FEMALE WITH EXCELLENT CONFIDENCE IN NAIL CARE SERVICES
   - WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
   - WITH GOOD WORK ETHICS AND ATTITUDE
4. **FRONT LINE OFFICERS OR SALES SUPERVISORS / MANAGERS**
   - COLLEGE GRADUATE
   - FEMALE WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY, GOOD WORK ETHICS AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS
   - DEDICATED AND WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS
   - WITH AT LEAST 2 YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE IN A MANAGERIAL POSITION, ENDORSED IN CUSTOMER SERVICE & PLUS

Students, your resume with 2x2 picture go to the HR Manager at Unit 2209 Rimberland Plaza, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or on before January 15, 2012. You may also email at: RICKY.ATLAS@FABFASHIONS.COM.PH

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WAREHOUSE MANAGER

- Female, between 30-45 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Management or any related course
- With at least five (5) years warehousing operations experience in a managerial or supervisory capacity
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be highly organized and with strong leadership skills
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be computer literate
- Must have good interpersonal skills and able to maintain a pleasant disposition under a highly stressful working environment

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-28 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course (open to fresh graduates)
- Must come from reputable schools / universities
- Must have good academic records
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS / SALES SUPERVISORS

- Between 25-35 years old, at least 5'2" in height for female and 5'5" for male
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- With at least one (1) year experience in the same/related field
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

SUPPLY CHAIN OFFICERS

- Female, between 26-35 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Management or any related course
- With at least three (3) years supervisory experience in warehousing operations, logistics, and supply chain
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be highly organized and with strong leadership skills
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management
(Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Accelerando Bldg.
845 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(walking distance from MRT Buendia Station / Buendia Buendia Car Exchange)

jtgrajo@rgoc.com.ph

CONTRACTUAL FRONTLINERS

Our company is looking for enthusiastic, motivated and committed individuals to join our team. If you possess excellent customer service skills, this may be the job for you.

Qualifications:

- **Pleasing personality**
- **21-29 years old**
- **College level (must have completed at least 80 units)**
- **Minimum height of 5'2" for female and 5'6" male**
- **Excellent communication skills**

Salary range is from P20,000 to P25,000.

Send your bio data with recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to P.O. Box 953, Manila.

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www.magnuseventus.com

Jeri Mealey

IMMEDIATE HIRING

GREENPEACE

One of the world's leading environmental campaigning organizations is looking for a

Deputy Fundraising Director

The Deputy Fundraising Director supports the Fundraising Director in the delivery, coordination and management of the fundraising strategies to maximize long-term financial and public support for Greenpeace SEA. The Deputy Fundraising Director will supervise fundraising teams, providing mentoring and leadership on fundraising techniques, general organizational management, administrative, finance, and strategic program development.

Qualifications & Experience

- University graduate, preferably in Business Administration, Marketing or Communications
- Five plus years of proven leadership and management in a senior marketing and/or fundraising field preferably in the NGO sector (and with direct dialogue).
- Requires cutting-edge creative and strategic thinking.
- Solid people and financial management skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication (English)

Essential Skills

- Preferred with good command of Thai or Bahasa Indonesia
- Sensitive to socio-economic environment of SE Asia

Interested candidates are requested to write a letter of introduction, explaining why you are qualified for the position, and fill up the application form which you can download from: (https://www.greenpeace.org.ph/deputyfdirector and email by the closing date to: jobs.ph@greenpeace.org

Only the shortlisted candidates will be notified.

(Deadline for application: January 23, 2012)

WORKING PEOPLE

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E-mail: workingpeople@philippine.com.ph

Editor Jessie Francis M. Balbuena

How can I change my image especially in the office?

I'M FEMALE, 29 YEARS OLD and still single. I have never had any serious boyfriend, this been because my priorities, concern. I don't think I'm plain looking. It's just that I have so many things to do, moderately my in the role in our office. I expect to thrive because all of whom have their priorities.

Much "pare" in all I have. One of the negative me to put on my self photos. I'd honest a day. I drive a wreck. As a result of my busyness. I'm seen by my colleagues as unfriendly and a loner and that I don't want to socialize. So they don't invite me to outside them. I have no time to go to the beauty parlor to have a new hairstyle or to see a dermatologist for a facial. I have no time to fix myself in the office. I even munch my sandwich while working during my lunch time. My officemates who are also multi-tasking, are able to spend time to coffee and dinner on Friday nights as have fun and so unwind. I just have so many things to do that I go home late and exhausted.

I want to look good and change my image this new year. What should I do?

Miss Hurassed

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

The answer to your problem of no time for it is you. Inside. You already answered your own question when you wrote "I have so many things to do, moderately my in the role in our office. I expect to thrive because all of whom have their priorities."

Much "pare" in all I have. One of the negative me to put on my self photos. (At home's a day.) I drive a wreck. As a result of my busyness. I'm seen by my colleagues as unfriendly and a loner and that I don't want to socialize. So they don't invite me to outside them. I have no time to go to the beauty parlor to have a new hairstyle or to see a dermatologist for a facial. I have no time to fix myself in the office. I even munch my sandwich while working during my lunch time. My officemates who are also multi-tasking, are able to spend time to coffee and dinner on Friday nights as have fun and so unwind. I just have so many things to do that I go home late and exhausted.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CBAC), invites individual Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Term	Funding Source	Evaluation Procedure
Procurement Specialist (Re-Bid) (SLAs attach ment)	To provide technical assistance on the execution of procurement activities during project implementation. The Procurement Specialist will focus on the procurement of goods, consulting services and civil works requirements under the Foreign Assisted Projects.	Individual	Short-Term	Individual Selection

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents (Interested Individual Consultants must submit them), either in hard (CD) or apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting projects on or before 15 February 2012, 10:00 AM at Gift Building 6, CBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission for eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents. 15 February 2012, 10:00 A.M. at GIF Building 6, CBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The CBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents (hereinafter referred to as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of a minimum of three (3) prospective bidders when all the criteria for qualification.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184, and is restricted, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with Section 23.4 of the IRR of RA 9184, only the short listed consultants will be contacted. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who is also determined as such during post-qualification.
4. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided to the consultants in the bidding documents.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Individual consultants should download and submit the REI via the PHILGEPS website (www.philgeps.gov) or through the bidders at 4/F GIF Bldg.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all Bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding. If the project is not implemented or circumstances have significantly changed so as to render it no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH, if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and when the funds for the project/procurement/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DOH and/or time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or Bidders.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
Ground Floor Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 loc. 1626 (IT Unit) ; 1602, Telefax No. 743-8302, 743-8779
Website: www.doh.gov.ph Email: cbacsecretariat@doh.gov.ph

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ANGELINA T. GARCIA, MD, MPH, CESO III
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(RE) January 15, 2012

ARE YOU QUALIFIED FOR MORE SUCCESS?
PERSONALLY AND FINANCIALLY

- Management Career Development Opportunities
- High Earnings Potential - Salary and Commission
- Financial Independence - High Commissions

WHO? (WE NEED)

Investment Consultants

- **Minimum of 7 - 10 yrs excellent sales results**
- College graduate
- Sales and Marketing background
- Extensive personal network
- Independent minded
- Fluency in Korean, Chinese, Japanese language (oral & written) definite advantage
- With pleasing personality, presentable and professional

WHAT? (WE NEED)

Investment Consultants

HOW? (TO BE SUCCESSFUL)

Above average earnings for those with abilities to sell multi-product investments in the Canadian Real Estate market to both large and small investors in the Philippines

- Minimum Investment Php 450,000*
- Maximum Investment Php 15 Million*

* Approximate only. Actual investment is in Canadian Dollars.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS CONTACT US NOW!

- Send CV to careers@a2asia or john.a.lemin@a2a.asia

We welcome people from the following industries:

INSURANCE-BANKING-FINANCIAL SERVICES - REAL ESTATE

www.a2a.asia

A2A

We are looking for:

airbus 320 First Officer

Join the country's largest airline

Requirements:
- At least 1500 hours total flying time
- Proficiency units on an aggregate aircraft experience
- Valid CPL with instrument rating
- Minimum Level 4 ICAO English proficiency rating

Be part of our team and enjoy:
- Unlimited travel benefits
- Medical Coverage
- Working in an environment with young, dynamic, driven and fun-loving people

PLUS, a world-class 4000 type-rated, entry-
- Experience-based compensation package
- Fast opportunity for upgrade

Interested applicants may submit their updated CV to jobs@cebupacificair.com with the subject line "Airbus 320 First Officer"

CEBU PACIFIC AIR

THE WORLD BANK

OPERATIONS ANALYST

The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is a multi-donor partnership administered by the World Bank to support poor people in obtaining affordable, safe, and sustainable access to water and sanitation services. In the Philippines, WSP has embarked on the Small Water Utilities Improvement and Financing (SWIF), an operating program aimed at strengthening capacity of the government to engage in water sector reforms, improving demand and supply for water supply services. The approaches developed from the Sustainable Sanitation for Sual Area (SUSEA) Program have formed the operating components of two national programs which WSP continues to support for implementation, including capacity-building of local governments to adopt the new approaches and for bookkeeping national government agencies in their roll out.

The WSP Philippines is in need of a Water and Sanitation Operations Analyst. The assignment will be Co-Term appointment for a period of two (2) years, subject to one-year probationary period, under the supervision and supervision of the WSP Country Coordinator and in collaboration with WSP team members in the country and the region. Her/his responsibilities:

- Assist in conceptualizing, developing and implementing WSP's program of work in the region
- Help local water supply & sanitation counterpart agencies & partners to develop ways to increase emphasis on rural & urban water supply & sanitation needs in national development plans, as well as policy, strategy and implementation approaches
- Design and manage individual components of the annual or multi-year work plans under WSP's 5-Year Business Plan, including responsibility for the delivery of products & outcomes. Manage WSP resources following WSP administrative rules
- Contribute to the preparation of concept notes, think pieces & best practice papers on innovative water and sanitation approaches, including the production of short news- or thematic notes. Promote and contribute to knowledge sharing
- Assist in raising external finance, interact with donors & NGO and civil society organizations and contribute to cultivation of policy relations, joint and contribute to one or more relevant WSP Global Practice Teams or Thematic Groups
- Maintain liaison and dialogue with relevant government authorities and sector agencies aimed at contributing to overall sector coordination & increased harmonization, alignment and ownership. Provide cross-support to World Bank operations

Selection Criteria:
- Master's degree (preferred) in a relevant discipline such as Engineering, Economics, Finance or Urban Planning, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience relevant to the demands of the position.
- In-depth knowledge of Philippine governmental sector agencies, as well as the role and functioning of bilateral and/or multilateral agencies. Experience with Philippine water sector legislation would be desirable.
- Excellent analytical written communications and presentation skills in English, including ability in writing high quality documents such as synthesis notes and fact notes. Full computer literacy on all major office productivity applications.
- Strong analytical skills, methodological rigor and problem-solving ability.
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of water or urban water supply and sanitation issues, economic and financial issues related to the sector, decentralized service delivery, institutional functions and development, pro-poor policies).
- Demonstrable technical and administrative management skills of programs and projects.
- Ability and willingness to travel nationally and regionally (Asian focus area) frequently.

For description & details (vacancy # 128868) and application to the World Bank Careers website: www.worldbankjobs.org. All applications must be submitted through this website. The World Bank Group is committed to maximizing diversity in terms of gender, nationality, cultural and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

Closing date is January 29, 2012

Working For a World Free of Poverty

The **Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation** has a job opening for the following positions:

Position/Title	No. of Positions	Minimum Qualifications
MECHANICAL ENGINEER	1	Licensed M.E., with 2 years work experience in a supervisory position as Engineer preferably in a furniture manufacturing company; proficient in AutoCad
ARCHITECT	1	Preferably Licensed Architect, with 2 years work experience in product/ furniture designs; proficient in AutoCad
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER	1	With 2 years work experience as Engineer preferably in a furniture manufacturing company; proficient in AutoCad

Applicants should be less than 35 years old. Submit your resumé with colored 2x2 photo, copy of Transcript of Records and PRC license to:

The HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila 1000

Or email to recruitment@PAGCOR.ph
with the position applied for as subject.

A.V. PAULE CONST. CO., INC.
is in need of

ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS, ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS & DRIVERS

Requirements: Preferably with experience, 22-35 yrs of age with good physical condition, 10th up. Experience is an advantage. Bring NBI clearance & Certificate of Employment from previous employer. For inquiries, please call 7219829/7236947 or cell number 0917-5157387. Submit your resume at Unit 207 Stella Condominium IV, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan

WANTED

HOUSE BOAT'S MANOK is urgently looking for qualified applicants for the following positions:

OFFICE CLERK
Female, 21-30 years old, 1-year recent graduate, or with relevant experience in advantage but not required.

ACCOUNTING STAFF
Female, 21-30 years old, requiring graduate, minimum one year experience in accounting. Experience in advantage but not required.

FOOD HANDLERS
Male, 18-35 years old, at least 5'4 inches, with cleaning personality, willing to run assigned errands, with relevant experience in advantage but not required.

Personally submit your resume at address of:
House Boat's Manok, Manila Bay, Inc.
Cnr. Roxas Blvd. & Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila

Brand NEW corner HOUSE & LOT for SALE
w/ OTIS HOME ELEVATOR located at MCKINLEY HILL VILLAGE, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG

TOUR HOME : Schedule NOW!
PRICE : PHP 47.5 Million (Inc. Tax Inclusive)
WARRANTY : 10 year on structural & 1 yr. on electrical/door/portable unit

Short Description:
* 4 Storey with 7 Bedrooms all with individual bathrooms
* 8-10 Cars Garage (Elevator can) Includes Brand motor car or truck space!!!

ABOUT MCKINLEY HILL
McKinley Hill Village is now more of Eden in the heart of the metropolis. Teeming spaces of nature greet you in a charming enclave set right next to Forbes Park and the Bonifacio Global City. Enjoy serene and restful moments... Feel your heart and mind with lush greenscape and a touch of Mediterranean style of living... Bestrolled with the amenities distinctly created to suit your lifestyle... pamper yourself with a pleasant yet not expensive night or your favorite...

AMENITIES:
Recreation pool/ Clubhouse / Multi-purpose hall
Jogging Path/ Bike Lanes
Basketball court
Clubhouse w/ pool/ Tennis Courts / Fitness & Wellness Park/ Wood fire Highest point in Fort Bonifacio
Pet Spa/ Underground electrical and phone wirings, etc.

AREA
Schools (Public, Private/International, Science, Technical, Arts, Vocational, Medical)
Malls (Forbes Park, Bonifacio Global City, Commonwealth, Fairview, Makati, Ayala Triangle, Glorietta, Greenbelt, Rockwell, Power Plant, Serendra, Market! Market!, Bonifacio High Street, Venice Piazza, Mall of Asia, Resorts World, Manila Bay, Eastwood, Ortigas, Shangri-La, Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Podium, Trinoma, Ayala Center Cebu, Ayala Center Davao, Ayala Malls Vertis North, Ayala Malls Manila Bay, Ayala Malls Circuit, Ayala Malls Feliz, Ayala Malls Capitol Central, Ayala Malls Marquee, Ayala Malls Solenad, Ayala Malls Nuvali, Ayala Malls Manila Bay, Ayala Malls Circuit, Ayala Malls Feliz, Ayala Malls Capitol Central, Ayala Malls Marquee, Ayala Malls Solenad, Ayala Malls Nuvali)
Hospitals (Asian Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, The Medical City, Manila Doctors Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, Ospital ng Makati, Ospital ng Maynila, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Philippine Orthopedic Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Philippine Eye Research Institute, Philippine Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Cancer Center, Philippine Mental Health Association, Philippine Mental Hospital, Philippine Psychiatric Hospital, Philippine Rehabilitation Institute, Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Philippine Women's Medical Association, Philippine Women's Hospital, Philippine Women's Medical Association, Philippine Women's Hospital)
Banks & Commercial Establishments
(Metrobank, BPI, Equitable PCI Bank, Philippine National Bank, Philippine Savings Bank, Philippine Trust Company, Philippine Veterans Bank, Philippine Women's Bank, Philippine Women's Trust Company, Philippine Women's Bank, Philippine Women's Trust Company)

CONTACT INFORMATION:
website: www.bonifacioworldwide.com; Email add: bonifacioworldwide@gmail.com
Tel. nos. 8048080/ 8079443 – Ext no (0917) 4486080 – Mobile no (0917) 4486080 – JP

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

ICT No.	Location	Type	Land Area in sq.m. (more or less)	Appraised Value (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
T-19420 T-19421	Located on the northeast corner of Sitio Camia (area used as Non-Agricultural Landfill Site) of Barangay Malapad Gerardo Roxas City. Adjoin Lot 4 becomes east from the center of National Highway and Roxas Road, 1.2 kilometers northeast from Lapaz Public Market and approximately 10.0 kilometers northeast from the City proper.	Agricultural Land Landfill Area	10,000 10,000	2,000,000	July 10, 2012 9:00 a.m.	At the Office of the Clerk of Court, Executive Judge and Ex-Officio Sheriff of Capiz, Capiz Central Courts, City
T-4301	Located on the northwest corner of 3 Existing Roads beside SRC Compound within Lapaz Village, Pandanon District, Tapaz City. Same lot that is 2.5 kilometers more or less from Poblacion, 200 meters south from the corner of National Highway and Tapaz-Roxas City approximately 7.0 kilometers north from the City Hall.	Vacant Residential Land	600	720,000	July 10, 2012 9:00 a.m.	At the entrance of the Regional Trial Court Building, Amendolas Hall of Justice, Bonifacio Street, Tapaz, Capiz

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal conditions of the property prior to the auction date.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 631-7000 loc. 7511 or send an email to: foreclosureproperties@metrogrowth.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARCHITECTS

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

APPLIANCES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUM SALE

FARMS/AGRICULTURAL LANDS

COMMERCIAL

HOUSE & LOT

LOT

HOUSE & LOT

CONDOMINIUMS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BONDS/PAWNED

MEMORIAL LOT

HOUSE

APARTMENT

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

ROOM & BOARD

LOAN & MORTGAGE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PETS

WANTED TO BUY

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

AUCTION SALE

LEGAL NOTICE

PERSONAL

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WATER STATION
EASY TO OWN

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DENTIST

FEMALE

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

INQUIRER

SYSTEMS ANALYST PROGRAMMER
- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Background in Computer Hardware and Networking
- At least 2 years experience in Java Programming
- Knowledge in Developing Web Applications, PHP or other web programming tools
- Web knowledge in Visual Basic and Photoshop
- Knowledge in Oracle Database Administration and knowledge in Solaris OS, related hardware configuration is a plus

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- College graduate with background in Marketing or Communications
- At least 1 year experience in Sales or Account Management
- Computer literate, knowledge in basic computer applications
- Interpersonal skills, Writing Skills, Presentation Skills, Filing Skills, Communication Skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
- College graduate preferably Business Administration
- At least 1 year experience in Sales
- Basic Computer Operating Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills, Problem Solving Skills
- Willingness to work on rotating schedules

PRODUCT ASSISTANT
- College graduate, preferably Mass Communication, Marketing or Advertising
- At least 1 year experience in Sales or Marketing
- Basic Computer Operating Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills, Problem Solving Skills, Multi-tasking Skills

REPORTER
- College graduate, preferably Mass Communication or Journalism or Communication Arts
- At least 1 year experience in Sales or Marketing
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Research Skills, Basic Photo
- Willing to relocate to Mindanao area

Send your application letter and curriculum vitae or resume to:

THE INQUIRER MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Libra Media Group Inc. / Philippine Star Group
Current Digest and Associates Manila, Philippines
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

The country's most widely read and circulated broadsheet newspaper is in need of:

INQUIRER

AUDIT SUPERVISOR
- Accounting graduate and Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with CISA Credit
- At least 2 years experience in accounting and audit work
- With knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Flexible Leadership
- Leadership and Analytical Skills

DATA EDITOR
- College graduate with major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper journalism
- With at least 1 year computer literacy including good interpreting/encoding skills
- Familiar with Microsoft Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Send your application letter and curriculum vitae or resume to:

THE INQUIRER MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Libra Media Group Inc. / Philippine Star Group
Current Digest and Associates Manila, Philippines
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that BOI (BMC) PROJECT DEVELOPERS, INC. (applicant) for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a new developer of low cost mass housing project (Sierra Park Residences) with a capacity of 432 horizontal mass housing units on a non-pioneer status with project site at Brgy. Santol, Santa Rosa, Brgy. San Isidro, Pantabangan City.

Any person with valid objections on the above mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EMELDA B. LAGUMBAYAN
Director
Project Evaluation and Regulation Department
(PEN Jan. 15, 2012)

FOR SALE

LOCATION : LOT 1 OF CSD-7007724, BMO DRIVE, BARANGAY 171, CALOOCAN CITY
FLOOR AREA : 121 SQUARE METERS
INCLUDED IN THE SELLING PRICE:
A. 1 UNIT HOUSE
1 CARPORT
1 CR
B. APARTMENT
1 MASTER'S BEDROOM
1 BEDROOM FOR TWO
C. BEDROOM 1
1 BEDROOM 2
D. BEDROOM 3
1 Master's Room
1 Bedroom 4
1 CR

The Townhouse TCT (69-2) is mortgaged with Libra Quezon City is never acquired and not inherited with Title of the Libra Building resident's signature. It is precisely on any of the Real Estate Tax Code and is not available for sale, sale transaction are made.

Initial Price of 10 MILLION is negotiable.

BIRMINGHAM
by Hausmann the Ave.
NEW HOUSES & LOTS FOR SALE
AVAILABLE UNITS
SOLD UNITS
NEW TRAIL TOWN
Ave. Ext.
PHASE 1 PHASE 2
PHASE 3 PHASE 4
PHASE 5 PHASE 6
PHASE 7 PHASE 8
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Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones
Ps. 116:15

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RODOLFO MARFORI LEJANO

November 7, 1920 – December 30, 2011

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and in countless ways comforted us in our time of bereavement.

January 15, 2012

"Remember that alongside the fountain a traveler tired by the journey made aware of how from within his breast overflow on the Samaritan woman and I know him who asked for a drink He is the gift of God. The source of glory. He is water springing up! It is He who said to us: 'come to Me.'"

St. Therese of the Child Jesus
Poem no. 23 excerpt
OC 011309

IN MEMORY OF THE 85TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Virgilio Domingo De Los Santos

4th President of The University of Manila

Lovingly missed and so dearly loved, our beloved father celebrates his 85th natal day, today, in the heavenly embrace of The Almighty, and we rejoice The University of Manila community together with all the members of the family, relatives, friends, join to all our prayer tributes on the natal day celebration, at The University of Manila Chapel at 8:00 AM.

Other Masses will be held at:

Mother of Perpetual Help	6:00 AM
Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat	7:00 AM
San Sebastian Parish	7:00 AM
Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto	6:15 AM
St. Anthony's Shrine	6:15 AM
National Shrine of St. Michael and The Archangels	8:00 AM
Sta. Domingo Cathedral	7:00 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	6:00 AM
Sta. Cruz Parish Church	9:30 AM
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine	6:30 AM

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of death certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and Bank-to-bank payments

- BEGIN ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- BEGIN AMBOYAN
- NOVENA
- FREE DAY DESIGN

"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:1

Engr. WINSTON B. FLORA
"Tony"

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 13, 2012 at the age of 70.

His beloved wife; Ging; children, Jojo & Joy, Amy & Alvin, Edna; grandchildren, Justine, Jasmine, Anjo; sisters, Feli, Belen, Charo; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at 12 noon on January 17, 2012 after the 10:00 am Mass.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come..." Psalm 23:6

ERLINDA VILLACORTA-ILETO
(wife of the late Ex-Mayor Jaime V. Ilero, Sr.)

of San Ildefonso, Bulacan

Her bereaved children Lt. Gen. Jaime, Jr. & Rhonda Pedrosa, Raul, Erlinda (Girlie), Hector & (+) Rina Cudiz, Melinda & Ric Pangan, Jaime III (Bing) & Corlene Cohen, Marian & Dodie Nobleza, Mina & Manny Sarmen, Che & Raul de Segurit; grandchildren, great-grandchildren; sister Belen Bhardwaj; brothers Adolfo & Dominic; sisters-in-law, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 3, Loyola Memorial Chapels Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City.

Interment at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on January 19, 2012.

The Bishop and the Clergy of the Diocese of Gumaca and the families of MONTEREY and ORE request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of

REV. FR. PIO PAR MONTEREY

A priest of the Diocese of Gumaca, who passed away from this world to the Lord on January 10, 2012

SCHEDULE OF WAKE

Jan. 11 to 15	Lepanto Catholic Center Lepanto, Quezon
Jan. 16	5:00PM MASS @ Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish Church, Lepanto, Quezon
Jan. 16 to 17	Quezon Hall Cathedral Compound Lucena, Quezon

The Funeral Mass will be on Jan. 17, 2012, Tuesday, 1:30 PM at San Diego de Alcala Cathedral, Gumaca, Quezon

CLASSIFIEDS

Panasonic brings light to many Pinoys

Appliance manufacturer and distributor Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation (PMPC), in light of recent disasters that struck the country and created massive power losses in the country's four key hubs, shared its reliable innovations epitomized through time, by providing much-needed light in times of darkness.

Television is not "Pinkdong," "Quezi," or more recently "Sendong," the results were the same, as these severe weather disturbances plunged affected areas into states of disorientation and depression, causing further darkness and despair as its victims are overwhelmed.

Recalling that typhoon Ondoy would need essential items aside from food, medicine, clothes and places to stay, PMPC decided to do its share in helping out kababayans in the hardest-hit areas by providing them with "light" amid widespread darkness.

Just recently, PMPC donated more than P2 million worth of Panasonic flashlights and batteries to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Received by no less than DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, the flashlights and the batteries were PMPC's humble contribution to the agency's social welfare development programs for victims of natural calamities or disasters.

In what can really be the first time that PMPC extended its help to victims of calamities in the country.

Earlier this year, PMPC quickly responded to establish various efforts by helping provide much needed light as a demand more than P1 million worth of flashlights and batteries to the typhoon victims were made. Many were still out of power. This was done in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) through its Secretary General, Gwendolyn Pang, who received the donation on behalf of PNRC.

And during Typhoon "Ondoy" arguably one of the hardest-hitting typhoons that ever struck the country, PMPC was also on hand to provide much-needed help to those situations who remained without power for days.

Compared to the magnitude of the typhoons' devastation of affected areas, PMPC Director Mike Canoy said their contributions would definitely pale in comparison, however, he added that for the victims of these calamities, the Panasonic flashlights and batteries would be very handy, during darkness, they would really need tools to let them see things clearly in order to speed up the rehabilitation phase, which is really the most difficult stage.

"It's really hard to rebuild after a tragic devastation and I hope Panasonic flashlights and batteries will be able to contribute in the rebuilding process by providing not just the needed light but also serve as a beacon of hope to those who are just up on their feet and rebuild their lives," explains Mr. Canoy.

For more details about Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation, visit www.panasonic.com.ph.

Sharing a light. Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation (PMPC) recently shared its humble contribution amid the widespread darkness during the recent calamities that struck the country by donating more than a million pesos worth of flashlights and batteries through the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). Photo shows PNRC Secretary General Gwendolyn T. Pang (2nd from right) receiving the donated units from PMPC director Miguel T. Canoy (2nd from left). Witnessing the event are PNRC fund generation manager Arsenio R. Bautista (far left) and PMPC general manager Edna Ilarde Sarmiento (right).

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3/4 Page	P 89,100	P 98,010	P 125,145	P 115,830
1/2 Page	P 59,400	P 65,340	P 83,430	P 77,220
1/4 Page	P 29,700	P 32,670	P 41,715	P 38,610
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	7.00 cm.	P 7,700		
	4.50 cm.	P 4,950		
	3.00 cm.	P 3,300		

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	4.50 cm.	P 4,950
	3.00 cm.	P 3,300
1/16 Page	14.25 cm.	P 7,838
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

DepED

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

Pre-qualification, Bids, and Awards Committee (PBAC) for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects of the DepED

School Infrastructure Project

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID FOR PPP SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

The Department of Education (the "DepED") invites interested parties to apply to pre-qualify to bid for the design, financing, construction, and maintenance of two-storey and two-storey school buildings under the following Contract Packages:

Contract Package	Region	Expected Number of School Sites	Expected Number of School Buildings	Expected Number of Classrooms
Contract Package IA	Region I	160	320	2,560
Contract Package IB	Region III	116	146	2,920
Contract Package II	Region IV-A	441	1,090	4,278
	Total	2,281	2,559	9,038

The number of school sites, school buildings, and classrooms are approximate, and subject to change. Each school building will consist of the following Project Components: Component I - Classroom Buildings, Component II - Toilets, and Component III - Classroom Furniture; all to be designed and constructed in accordance with the prescribed Minimum Performance Standards and Specifications to be released by DepED. Each Contract Package within the bid not eligible solely interested parties may apply to pre-qualify to bid for a single Contract Package or any combination of Contract Packages, as described in greater detail in the Invitation Documents.

This Project will be awarded through competitive public bidding, as a Public-Private Partnership ("PPP") project, in accordance with applicable laws, including the Build-Operate-and-Transfer ("BOT") Law (RA No. 6957, as amended by RA No. 7718), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Through the Build-Lease-and-Transfer ("BLT") modality.

The bidding will follow the two-stage system: (a) Prospective Bidders shall first be pre-qualified by the DepED based on legal, technical and financial capability requirements; and (b) the Prospective Bidders which pre-qualify shall be invited to submit their bids.

Prospective Bidders may obtain the Invitation Documents, consisting of: (a) this Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid; (b) the Instructions to Prospective Bidders, including the required Qualification Documents; (c) the Draft Minimum Performance Standards and Specifications; and (d) the Information Memorandum, from the Office of the PBAC for PPP Projects, at the DepED Complex in Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, 1600 Philippines, c/o Ms. Theresa Irene Mendiolaza with Telephone No. (+632) 633-9942 or Fax No. (+632) 631-4940, from 11 January 2012 to 20 April 2012, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP1,000,000.00. This fee may be paid in cash or by manager's check issued by a bank in the Philippines payable to the Department of Education. Only persons or firms who have purchased the Invitation Documents shall be allowed to participate in the pre-qualification process. The DepED may release updates, clarifications, amendments, or additions to any or all of the Bidding Documents at any time.

Prospective Bidders must submit their applications for pre-qualification, together with duly accomplished Qualification Documents in the required format, to the DepED PBAC not later than 10:00 a.m. on 23 April 2012, at the above-mentioned Office of the PBAC.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO M. VARELA**
DepED Undersecretary for Finance and Administration
and Chairman, PBAC for PPP Projects

PBAC-ITB-PPP-2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
REGIONAL OFFICE COMPOUND, Osmeña Boulevard, Sambag 1, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Sixteen Million Four Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Twenty Pesos only (Php 16,432,020.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to any lowest calibrated bid for the works described below for the various schools in the Division of Cebu Province as follows:

Items	School	Municipality	Name of Work	ABC	Duration
1	Tabuk ES Cambinocot ES Alambijud ES Bitoon ES Malingin SHS Bitoon NHS Pangpang ES(A)	San Fernando San Fernando San Fernando Minglanilla Minglanilla Minglanilla Minglanilla	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,164,748.00	120 C.D.
2	Mo. Tinamungan ES Cangomawan ES Cambuhat ES Cambuhat ES Cogon ES	Talisay Talisay Talisay Talisay Talisay	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P2,344,284.00	120 C.D.
3	Sudlon ES Lusaran ES Lusaran ES Lusaran ES Lusaran ES	Cebu City Cebu City Cebu City Cebu City Cebu City	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,126,284.00	120 C.D.
4	Bato ES Bato ES Pitalo ES Pitalo NHS Pitalo NHS	Consolacion Consolacion Consolacion Consolacion Consolacion	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,164,748.00	120 C.D.
5	Olaybar ES San Roque ES Olaybar ES Olaybar ES Olaybar ES Olaybar ES	Liloan Liloan Liloan Liloan Liloan Liloan	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,164,748.00	120 C.D.
6	Tabunan ES Tabunan ES Tabunan ES Tabunan ES Tabunan ES	Carcar Carcar Carcar Carcar Carcar	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,164,748.00	120 C.D.
7	Tuburan ES Tuburan ES Tuburan ES Tuburan ES Tuburan ES	Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan	Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms Repair of Classrooms	P1,293,720.00	120 C.D.
			TOTAL	P16,432,020.00	

The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above-mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC and/or those with its submitted bid after opening, Late bid shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per cluster basis.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last two (2) years from date of submission and receipt of bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC in the bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criteria, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184. Additional details are available at **www.philgeps.net**.

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Commencement of Bidding Documents	January 11, 2012 - 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Division of Cebu Province
Pre-Bid Conference	January 16, 2012, 10:00 A.M.	Division of Cebu Province
Submission and Opening of Bids	January 23, 2012, 9:00 A.M. (Cluster 1-3) January 24, 2012, 9:00 A.M. (Cluster 4-7)	Division of Cebu Province

The Bidding Documents may be requested or purchased at the address previously indicated herein upon corresponding to a bidder's information sheet and payment to cash of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00 per cluster by interested bidders. It may be downloaded at the website of the PHILGEPS. Request for Registration of Interest (ROI), and Special Power of Attorney for Authorized representative are required.

DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to cancel the bidding process, or **declare failure** of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ROSALIE V. ARCAL**
BAC Chairperson

BAC-ITB-2012

Southville launches media center

DISCOVER AND EXPERIENCE ART IN TECHNOLOGY as Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) launches its state-of-the-art Media Center this January 20 and 21.

The new SISC Media Center is equipped with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment in broadcasting, audio-visual production, video editing, recording, graphic design, and animation. It houses an 800-square-meter newsroom, radio station and broadcast studio, drawing room, computer laboratories, audio booth for AM and FM radio applications, and a comfy lounge. As a central hub for Multimedia Arts and Mass Communication students, the Center supports instructional tools to ensure that SISC students are at the forefront of emerging digital networking capability.

Let your imagination ignite and shine through during the SISC Media Center Launching on January 20 (3:40 PM) and 21 (9:40 AM). Multimedia exhibits, special video screenings, sound drawing and creation demonstrations, caricature, and lots of freebies and surprises await your response. For more information, email pr@southville.edu.ph or call (02) 828-3675, 825-4074 local 169 and look for Ryan or Ria.

PRSP
Program Support for Rural Poverty Reduction

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the largest membership-based non-profit social organization in the Philippines, through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC), invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid for the project as enumerated at Annex I attached hereto.

The BAC is composed of representatives from the following business:

LUZON	Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
VISAYAS	Bohol Island Residential Water Service and Sanitation Center
MINDANAO	Citigold Development Bank, Inc. Davao Branch, Davao Southern Business Development Center

A. Scope of Work: Construction of Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Facilities
B. Project Duration: Two (2) calendar days
C. Equipment Required: To be specified later

REQUIREMENTS:

A. Interested contractors should:
- Have experience in similar undertaking within the last 5 years;
- Willing personnel and equipment for the duration of the contract

- Required PCAB registration	Under "Building"
- Experience	Similar nature and complexity with emphasis on the required

B. Interested contractors are requested to submit the following pre-qualification requirements:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Bids and Bid Requirements
3. Business License or Mayor's Permit (To 2012)
4. Company or business profile including copies of services offered and facility briefer
5. List of similar completed projects
6. BIR Certificate of Registration
7. Company Income Tax return for the last three (3) years and income/ 2008 2009 to the BIR as proof of payment of Income Tax
8. Taxpayer Identification Number

C. Interest submit to:

- **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
c/o Bids Manager
Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
PBSC Bldg. Magallanes Cor. Real Streets
Intramuros, Manila

- or through email: **mbegumisa@pbsp.org.ph**

DEADLINE for Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and pre-qualification is on **January 26, 2012 (not later than 5:00PM)**

(Sgd.) **V.J. BONIFETA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NOTE:
PBSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever in connection with or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or fees they may be involved in the preparation of bids.

PBSC-ITB-12-0012

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Civil Works of Manila Seaport Construction and Development Corporation (MSCDC) invites interested bidders for the Construction of Reinforced Concrete Pavement at Container Yard 5 (CY-5) of MSCDC.

Number of Days for Completion	Three (3) Calendar Days
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 2,000,000.00
Source of Fund	Internally Generated Funds
Bid Security	Bid Bond, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Surety Bond, Cash
Contract Type	Lump Sum
Bidding Procedure	Open Competitive Bidding
Qualification of Bidders	Post-Qualification
Bid Evaluation	Lowest Calculated Bid

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract and should have the following minimum requirements:

1. Must have been in the business of construction for at least 5 years
2. Must have completed a similar contract with a minimum value of Php 1,000,000.00
3. Must have a minimum of 5 years experience in the construction of concrete pavement

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address of the Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php 5,000.00. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Manila Seaport Construction and Development Corporation (MSCDC), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids. Bidders who downloaded the Bidding Documents from the website of the MSCDC shall submit a duly accomplished Bidder's Information Sheet to the BAC Secretariat.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ROMEO C. ACOP
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Manila Seaport Construction and Development Corporation
Manila International Container Terminal
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
Telefax No. 528-1718

BAC-ITB-2012-01

USAID

JP SCHARES FOR NOMINEES TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MINDANAO LEADERS

The Congressional Internship Program for Young Mindanao Leaders (CIPYML) provides a four-month program to let Philippine Young Professionals, or Scholars (JPs) and Philippine Graduate Fellows (PGFs) from Mindanao to work in the Philippine Congress in Metro Manila. The program offers qualified committed young graduates from the Economic Support Fund in Mindanao (ESFM) areas and other conflict affected areas in Mindanao opportunities to deepen their knowledge and skills in governance and politics. Although the host of the internships and orientation is in Manila.

CIPYML is a partnership among the Philippine House of Representatives, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is managed by the USAID Program and Policy Coordination Office (PPCO).

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Between the ages 20 and 30
2. Filipino citizen (FB or FB Aguid Act) or possessing only ARMM or a conflict affected area in Mindanao
3. Resides in the ARMM or a conflict affected area in Mindanao
4. Must be a JP, PGF, Philippine Graduate Fellow, or Philippine Graduate Scholar
5. Has at least a Bachelor's degree from any of the following: University, Technical Institute, Community College, Graduate School, or Graduate Program
6. Fluency in English and Filipino

Application Documents:

1. Completed application form
2. Certification/ Proof of Filipino Citizenship
3. Certification/ Proof of Mindanao Residency
4. Letter of Intent/ Motivation
5. Official Transcript of Records
6. Letter of Recommendation from current or former university faculty and/or individuals who have supervised the applicant's academic work. A form recommendation letter will be supplied by the CIPYML program staff and applicants have the responsibility to ensure that the recommendation letter is submitted on time.
7. Two (2) passport photos
8. Two (2) pieces of Letter-sized Envelopes

Application Deadline:

First Batch (Oct-Dec 2012 intern):

Second Batch (Approximately Feb-May 2013 intern):

Application forms are to be submitted at www.mindanao.org.ph and not to the "Governance" section.

Please submit your application to:
DR. ANGELA MAE T. ILO
Senior CIPYML Program Coordinator
Philippine Graduate Fellowship
Mindanao Development Authority
Davao City
Cell Phone No. 0920-5-5555-555 or 0918-555-5555
Email: angela@gmail.com or mindanao@yahoo.com
APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

MAY TRABAHO DITO
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DOTC-DTI JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2011-01 SERIES OF 2011

SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10054 INSTITUTED "AN ACT MANDATING ALL MOTORCYCLE RIDERS TO WEAR STANDARD PROTECTIVE MOTORCYCLE HELMETS WHILE DRIVING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFROM"

Pursuant to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10054 (RA 10054 otherwise known as "Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009", the following rules and regulations are hereby jointly promulgated for compliance and guidance of all concerned:

1. SCOPE

These guidelines shall apply to wearing of standard protective motorcycle helmets by all motorcycle drivers and back riders while driving in any type of road and highway, to shall exclude drivers of tricycles.

For purposes of these guidelines, the following Administrative Orders of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall be applied:

1.1. **DAO 2-2007** – Department Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2007 – Prescribing the rules, responsibilities and liabilities of manufacturers, importers, traders, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, service providers and or their agents, with respect to product/services covered by Philippine Standard (PS) Certification Mark Scheme and prescribing penalties for violation thereof.

1.2. **DAO 4-2008** – Department Administrative Order No. 4, series of 2008 – The new rules and regulations concerning the PS Quality and/or Safety Certification Mark Scheme of the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS).

1.3. **DAO 5-2009** – Department Administrative Order No. 5, series of 2009 – The new rules and regulations concerning the issuance of Import Commodity Clearance under the Product Certification Mark Scheme of the BPS.

1.4. **DAO 1-2008** – Addenda to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7394 (RA 7394), otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of the Philippines" as Department Order No. 2, series of 1993 on the manner of Labelling and/or Packaging.

2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

2.1. Product – refers to protective helmet or visors within the scope of these guidelines.

2.2. Test Samples – refers to a product randomly chosen from lot or batch.

2.3. Manufacturer's Identifying Mark – refers to a logo or symbol representing the manufacturer's identity as approved by the BPS.

2.4. Accredited Laboratory – refers to a testing laboratory accredited by local national laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) or Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) that conducts tests on representative samples of helmets and/or visors.

2.5. Standard Protective Motorcycle Helmets – refers to helmets and visors that meet appropriate types of helmets for motorcycle riders that comply with the specifications prescribed by DTI and which bear the Philippine Standard (PS) mark or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) of the BPS.

2.6. Philippine National Standards (PNS) – refers to a standard promulgated by the BPS referring to a set of conditions to be fulfilled to ensure the quality and safety of a product. It shall contain product specifications, test methods, terminology, standardization procedures, and quality aspects of products.

2.7. Philippine Standard Quality (PS) Quality Certification Mark – refers to a mark of conformity to product quality standards, which appears on a product or product packaging.

2.8. Philippine Standard (PS) Safety Certification Mark – refers to a mark of conformity to product safety standards, which appears on a product or product packaging.

2.10. Import Commodity Clearance – refers to a document issued by the DTI/BPS allowing that the imported product, which is covered by a mandatory PNS, conforms to the applicable Philippine National Standard.

2.11. PNS/UN-ECE 22:2007 – refers to the uniform provisions concerning the approval of protective helmets and their visors for drivers and passengers of motorcycles and mopeds in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) Protocols.

3. ACTS PUNISHABLE UNDER RA 10054 AND OTHER THOSE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND CORRESPONDING PENALTIES

3.1 Driving without wearing the standard protective motorcycle helmet and/or failing to require backriders to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmet.

1 fine of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) for the first offense; Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for the second offense; Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the third offense; and Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), in addition to the confiscation of the driver's license, for the fourth and succeeding offenses, and/or imprisonment on arrastre of motorcycles who fail to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmets or fail to require their backrider/s to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmet. The penalty for driving or riding a motorcycle without any helmet shall be the same as that imposed for driving without the standard protective motorcycle helmet or failing to require his/her backrider to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmet.

3.2. Selling and/or dealing of a new motorcycle unit without making available a new standard protective motorcycle helmet to the purchaser in violation of Section 5 of the RA 10054.

A fine of Ten Thousand (P10,000.00) Pesos for the first offense; and Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00) Pesos for the second offense shall be imposed on sellers and/or dealers who fail to make available a new standard protective motorcycle helmet to a purchaser of a new motorcycle unit in violation of Section 5 of the RA 10054.

3.3. Selling/dealing/distributing of substandard motorcycle helmets or those which do not bear the PS mark or the ICC mark.

A fine of Three Thousand (P3,000.00) Pesos for the first offense; and Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos for the second offense shall be imposed on sellers and/or dealers who sell and distribute substandard motorcycle helmets or those which do not bear the PS mark or ICC mark without prejudice to other penalties imposable under RA 7394.

3.4 Tampering, altering, forging and imitating by a seller/dealer of the PS mark and the ICC mark in the helmets.

A fine of Ten Thousand (P10,000.00) Pesos for the first offense; and Twenty Thousand (P20,000.00) Pesos for the second offense shall be imposed on sellers and/or dealers who tamper, alter, forge and imitate the PS mark and ICC mark in the protective helmets and helmets without prejudice to other penalties imposable under RA 7394.

4. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DTI AND DOTC

4.1 In addition to the duties and responsibilities specified in DAO 4-2008 and DAO 1-2008, the DTI shall:

4.1.1 Inform the PS licensee/ICC Holders of any change(s) in the standards;

4.1.2 Conduct verification evaluation of all factory and product assessment reports, test reports and other relevant documents of the DTI Regional/Provincial Offices and/or Recognized Inspection/Testing Bodies;

4.1.3 Issue, deny, or revoke licenses/certificates based on the evaluation of factory and product assessment, product testing and compliance or non-compliance with the requirements of DAO 4-2008 and DAO 1-2008 and other BPS rules and regulations.

4.1.4 Coordinate with the DTI Regional or Provincial Offices and the DTI Office of Legal Affairs in identifying and implementing appropriate legal action against manufacturers, assemblers, importers, sellers and dealers violating RA 7394 and RA 10054; and pertinent rules and regulations.

4.2 The DTI shall consider the recommendations of the enforcement agencies, local government units and non-governmental organizations to bar fall-back helmets for crime prevention and direction and other security reasons.

4.3 DTI Regional/Provincial Offices shall:

4.3.1 Facilitate the processing of PS application (i.e. conduct factory/product assessment) and ICC application (i.e. evaluation, inspection, sampling, issuance/denial);

4.3.2 Conduct market monitoring and enforcement of standard.

4.3.3 Take legal action against those who, after evaluation, are found to have committed any of the acts described in Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 of these rules and regulations.

4.4 The Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) enforcers shall impose the appropriate penalties for acts described in Section 3.1 of these implementing rules and regulations.

4.4.1 For purposes of enforcing Section 3.1 of these implementing rules and regulations, MMDA/LTO enforcers are authorized to stop a moving motorcycle whose driver and/or rider is not wearing any helmet or its respective helmet worn which is plainly not a standard protective motorcycle helmet.

4.4.2 A motorcycle driver and/or rider wearing a helmet with a PS or ICC mark shall be deemed to be prima facie compliant with RA 10054 and these rules and regulations.

4.4.3 If the motorcycle driver and/or rider is not wearing a helmet or if the helmet worn by the motorcycle driver and/or rider has no PS or ICC mark, the DOTC/LTO enforcer shall issue the necessary citation ticket to the motorcycle driver imposing the appropriate penalties.

5. APPLICATION FOR PS OR ICC MARK

5.1 Manufacturers shall apply for the PS Quality and/or Safety Certification Mark with the BPS, or with their respective DTI Regional or Provincial office. Requirements, procedure and processing of PS application are governed by DAO 4-2008 and its implementing rules and regulations.

5.2 Importers shall apply for the ICC on a per shipment per bill of lading basis with the BPS or with the nearest DTI Regional or Provincial Office. Requirements, procedure and processing of ICC application are governed by DAO 1-2008 and its implementing rules and regulations.

5.3 In the absence of testing facilities, the importers shall warrant that the helmets and visors they import into the country comply with the specific standards mentioned above by the following means:

5.3.1 That the shipment has been subjected to testing by laboratories accredited by an accreditation body signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) or Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA);

5.3.2 That the testing has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of PNS/UN-ECE 22:2007; and

5.3.3 That the original Test Certificates has been evaluated by the BPS.

5.4 Those who purchased or has received helmets and visors from a foreign country shall secure clearance from the BPS or from the nearest DTI Regional or Provincial office prior to their use, provided that the helmets and visors have a mark of conformity that they comply with the PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22:2007.

6. SAMPLING

A duly authorized DTI/BPS representative or inspection bodies shall observe the provision of clauses 5.1.1.4, 5.1.1.5, and 5.1.1.6.4 of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22:2007.

7. TESTING

7.1 Tests shall be done by BPS Testing Center or BPS accredited recognized testing laboratories in accordance with the requirements of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22:2007 whichever is applicable. Type approval (Clause 5.1.1.1 of this standard shall be tested during the independent testing.

7.2 Some additional samples may be requested by the BPS Testing Center or any BPS designated/recognized testing laboratory as it necessary.

7.3 If manufactured, test sample(s) shall be taken at random either in the production line or warehouse. However, if imported, the sample(s) shall be taken at random directly from the Customs or importer's warehouse.

7.4 Test sample(s) for independent test shall be packed / sealed and signed in the presence of a DTI/BPS representative or BPS Designated inspector and shall be sent by the manufacturer/importer to the BPS Testing Center or to any BPS designated/recognized testing laboratory. The authorized DTI/BPS representative shall ensure that request for test form is properly filled-up, signed and issued to the manufacturer or importer.

7.5 Prior to testing, there shall be no additional preparation, modification or adjustment procedure conducted in any manner on the above test samples.

7.6 In the absence of testing facilities, the BPS, upon agreement with the local manufacturers, shall allow accredited laboratories accredited by the ILAC or Asia PALAC operating within or outside the Philippines with the signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

8. INDEPENDENT TESTING

8.1 The official testing laboratory shall be BPS designated/recognized testing laboratory(ies) whether located within or without the Philippines.

8.2 Two separate tests with two (2) testing results shall be conducted by BPS Testing Center and/or BPS designated/recognized testing laboratory. However, a declaration can be made that the product does not conform to the specific standard.

8.3 If in the determination of BPS the first sample failed, another set of sample from the same lot/batch shall be tested. If it passed the re-testing, the lot/batch is declared as complying with the requirements of the standard.

8.4 Likewise, if in the determination of BPS the first and the retest failed to conform to the requirements of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22:2007, the application shall be denied.

8.5 In the case of product with accompanying Test Report accepted by BPS, verification of the product through testing or inspection shall be waived.

8.6 All test results shall be held strictly confidential by the BPS/ICC or any BPS designated/recognized testing laboratory concerned. Test reports furnished the manufacturers/importers are for product certification purposes only.

9. DISPOSITION OF SAMPLES

9.1 After the test has been tested, it shall be returned to the manufacturer/importer.

9.2 Samples which failed to comply with the requirements of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22:2007 shall be stored at the concerned testing laboratory for reference purposes in the event that the manufacturer/importer contests the result of the test. If the test results are not contested after two (2) months from its issuance, the test report is deemed final and the samples shall be returned to the manufacturer/importer or disposed of in a manner deemed appropriate, under existing accounting and auditing rules.

9.3 BPS and the testing laboratory shall not be liable for whatever damage sustained by the test samples during transport and testing. The manufacturer/importer, upon receipt of notice of disposal of test samples shall, within one (1) month, pick up the samples at the concerned testing laboratory. Otherwise, BPS shall dispose the samples in a manner deemed appropriate under existing accounting and auditing rules.

10. COMPLIANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PS LICENSEE, ICC HOLDERS TRADERS & MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

10.1.1 Compliance

10.1.2 PS Safety Certification Mark License shall be issued to the manufacturer for the type(s) tested when the results of factory and/or product assessments shows conformity to the requirements specified in DAO 4-2008, its implementing rules and regulations, PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22-2007 its implementing guidelines and other DTI/BPS rules and regulations.

10.1.3 An ICC shall be issued to importers whose product conforms to the requirements of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22-2007, these implementing guidelines and other DTI/BPS rules and regulations.

10.2 Responsibilities of the PS Licensee

The licensee shall abide by the terms and conditions of the PS license and is governed by DAO 4-2008 and its implementing rules and regulations.

10.3 Responsibilities of the ICC Holders

The ICC Holder shall abide by the terms and conditions of the ICC and is governed by DAO 1-2008 and its implementing rules and regulations.

10.4 Responsibilities of the Traders and Dealers

Traders shall ensure that only approved helmets and visors shall be made available in their establishment. All dealers of motorcycle shall be informed to see that there are available stocks of DTI – approved helmets and visors.

10.5 Responsibilities of the Motorcycle Riders

Motorcycle riders shall always ensure that only the DTI – approved helmets and visors shall be used when riding motorcycle.

11. REQUIRED MARKINGS

11.1 All helmets and visors shall comply with the marking requirements of PNS/UN-ECE Reg 22-2007, DAO 1-2008 whichever is applicable.

11.2 In addition to the PNS/UN-ECE requirements, all imported helmets and visors should bear markings and labels in accordance with RA 7394 and the DTI Addenda Order No. 1, 2008.

11.3 The PS Certification Mark License shall not be used on helmets and visors in a misleading manner.

11.4 PS Certification Mark or ICC Mark with ICC number shall be permanently attached, affixed or imprinted on the product, whichever is practical, covered by the corresponding PS Certification Mark License or ICC Mark, in order to prevent its misuse.

12. MONITORING AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE

The BPS / DTI Regional/Provincial Offices shall, at any time, monitor and inspect products in the market for conformity to the requirements of DAO 1-2008, DAO 2-2007, DAO 4-2008, DAO 1-2008 and the specific standard. If the products are found out of conformity, BPS/DTI shall undertake appropriate actions or impose necessary legal actions, in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and regulations.

13. TRANSITORY PROVISION AND EFFECTIVITY

13.1 **Information and Education Campaign**. A nationwide information and education campaign shall be conducted by the DTI or any of its attached agencies, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Department of Education (DepEd), DTI-BPS and private agencies and organizations for a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Joint Administrative Order. This Joint Administrative Order shall be fully implemented after the conduct of said information dissemination campaign.

13.2 All issuances pertaining to the implementation of the rules and regulations on motorcycle helmets and visors are hereby revoked or superseded.

13.3 This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation and copy thereof furnished the UP Law Center.

Signed this 26th day of December 2011.

GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

(PNS – January 15, 2012)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
[illegible]

INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-B
[illegible]

January 15, 2013

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

[illegible]

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILIPPINES), INC. [illegible], Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Mr. Katsuhiro Fukuzaki Japanese	Assignment to the Concern Manager
2.	NOF-SHI METAL CORPORATION [illegible], Canlubang, Laguna	Mr. Hong Chiao Hsiao Taiwanese	General Manager
3.	NOF-SHI METAL CORPORATION [illegible], Canlubang, Laguna	Mr. Tin Kuo Chiang Taiwanese	Vice General Manager
4.	SUTER "S" TRADING AND LEASING CORP. Blanchard St. Cabuco, Cavite City, Philippines	Ms. Rohibah Rabor Indian	Office Controller
5.	SUTER "S" TRADING AND LEASING CORP. Blanchard St. Cabuco, Cavite City, Philippines	Ms. Prajapati Kiran Bhai Indian	Credit Investigation/ Collection
6.	PHILIPPINE SUGARMILL [illegible] [illegible], Cavite	Mr. Minoru [illegible] Japanese	Assistant Plant Manager
7.	AG-MAY ENTERPRISES, INC. [illegible], Cavite	Mr. Kazuo [illegible] Japanese	Technical Assistant/ Supervisor
8.	[illegible]	Mr. [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]
9.	[illegible]	Mr. [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information/objection in the above-mentioned application please contact/coordinate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ROLANDO E. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

To assist in these job referrals, assessment and employment facilitation activities, visit this nearest PESO/DOLE Employment Service Office (ESO) or log on at www.peso.dole.ph

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

NOTICE TO BID

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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[illegible]

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Regional Office No. 2, Peñaranda, Legazpi City

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SURVEY AND MAPPING PROJECT FOR HGP SITES IN REGION 5

IEE NO.: GB-HGP-FMS-2012

1. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 5, through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2012, intends to apply the total sum of [illegible] being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Survey and Mapping Project for HGP Sites in Region 5 (Bicol) as per Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and Bid (IAEB) dated [illegible] and signed by [illegible] as the Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC).

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office No. 5 now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the following projects:

Part No.	Location	Area (in has.)	ABC (PhP)
Lot 1			
[illegible]	Sto. Niño (Poro), Bonsay, Legazpi City (Tumbaco, Mariawa, Lapu-Lapu, Bonsay, and Bonga), et al. Brgy.	1,100 has.	₱1,100,000.00
Lot 2			
[illegible]	Cagsalay, Mandaon, Lake, Sorsogon Province (Sto. Niño, Cagsalay, Mandaon, Lake, Sorsogon)	2,170 has.	₱1,085,000.00
Lot 3			
[illegible]	Lupi, Sorsogon Province: Pagtal, Mirabel, Sto. Rosario, Poblacion, Del Rosario, Mapaco, Pili and Inalahan Lupi, Sorsogon Province: Lumbangan, Bongco, Sta. Monica, Sto. Rosario, Poblacion, Mapaco, Bulusan, Bulusan, Sorsogon	1,100 has. 300 has. 1,100 has. 300 has. 1,100 has.	₱1,100,000.00
Lot 4			
[illegible]	Irosin, Bulan, Matnog, Sorsogon Province: Irosin, Bulan, Matnog, Sorsogon	1,100 has.	₱1,100,000.00
Lot 5			
[illegible]	Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Sorsogon Province: Sawmill, Cogunan, Poblacion, Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon Province: Bacolod, Gubat, Sorsogon	300 has.	₱1,410,000.00

Brief Description:

Carrying out of Ground Truthing activities by GPS Units over a representative number of Barangay Draft Validity of GE to GPS and Updated Attributes.

The Validation Activity and Updating of the Values for the National Screening Program Assessment Tool (NSAT) in the Categories of Poverty Incidence.

Validation of Ground Truthing Activities and Updating of the Values and Data Gathered.

Data Encoding, Encoding of the Values and Data Gathered and Updating of the Respective Data.

Contract Duration: 240 days

3. Eligibility Documents may be purchased by interested contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Hundred Pesos (₱100.00) per lot starting January 16, 2012 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Cashier's Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office No. 5, Peñaranda, Legazpi City. Interested contractors may also download the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department of Energy, provided that bidders shall pay the fee not later than the submission of the eligibility documents.

4. Interested contractors must submit their eligibility documents on or before 10:00 A.M. (Philippine Standard Time) January 30, 2012 at the Office of the Undersigned, Administrative Officer V, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office No. 5, Peñaranda, Legazpi City. Late bids shall not be accepted. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.

5. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on January 30, 2012 at the Office of the Undersigned, Administrative Officer V, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office No. 5, Peñaranda, Legazpi City. Bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

6. Bidders shall comply with the following requirements:

   a. Valid and current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and registration for the Category "Small B" or higher, in accordance with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) Revised Rules and Regulations No. 04, Series of 2004;

   b. Statement of the prospective bidder's Single Largest Completed Contract (SLCC) similar to the contract to be bid, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, which must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC;

   c. Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year which should not be earlier than March 31, 2011;

   d. Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation in accordance with RA 5183 as amended by PD 1746, in the amount of at least the ABC;

   e. Valid Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);

   f. Valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located;

   g. Valid Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership);

   h. Bidder's Eligibility Checklist, using the form prescribed by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC).

7. Bidders shall submit their bids through their duly authorized representatives using the forms prescribed in the bidding documents. Bidders shall quote their bid prices for the Contract in Philippine Pesos.

8. Bidders must submit their bids in a sealed envelope clearly indicating the project name for which the bid is being submitted and the name and address of the bidder. Bidders shall submit their bids through their duly authorized representatives at the address given below on or before 10:00 A.M. on January 30, 2012.

9. Bidders must submit their bids through their duly authorized representatives using the forms prescribed in the bidding documents. Bidders shall quote their bid prices for the Contract in Philippine Pesos.

10. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office No. 5 reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

11. For further information, please refer to:

Atty. Rex C. Arguzo, CESO I
Administrative Officer V
DENR Regional Office No. 5, Peñaranda, Legazpi City
Tel/Fax No.: 052-820-2116
Email address: regvfive@yahoo.com and/or rex_arguzo@yahoo.com

Approved by:

ATTY. LEONARDO A. ANDRES
Regional Executive Director

January 9, 2012

Section II. Eligibility Documents

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1. The following general criteria shall be applied to participants in the bidding for Consulting Services:

(a) Valid and legal Philippine citizenship or partnership;

(b) Performance and experience in the work of the Philippines and in work of a kind and magnitude similar to the proposed project, as follows:

(i) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;

(ii) Consultancies duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;

(c) Professional staff having the skills and qualifications necessary to perform the Consulting Services for the Project, as indicated in the Terms of Reference (TOR), and a sufficient number of such staff who will be available to perform the Consulting Services for the Project, as indicated in the TOR. The minimum work experience for the specific assignments for which key professional staff are proposed shall be specified in the TOR;

(d) Demonstrated adequate arrangements to perform the Consulting Services, including subconsultancy and association arrangements, and adequate support staff and facilities, as indicated in the TOR. The minimum work experience for the specific assignments for which key professional staff are proposed shall be specified in the TOR;

(e) Legal capacity to enter into a contract for the Consulting Services;

(f) Not insolvent, in receivership, bankrupt or being wound up, not have its business activities suspended and must not be the subject of legal proceedings for any of the foregoing;

(g) Not debarred from participation in public bidding; and

(h) Not a corporation, nor have a relationship with a corporation, which has been debarred from participation in public bidding.

1.2. Foreign consultants shall be allowed to associate with Philippine consultants for the purpose of undertaking specific components of the Consulting Services. Any such association must be disclosed in the Expression of Interest (EOI).

1.3. Government-owned or -controlled entities may be eligible to participate only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not dependent agencies of the GOP or the Procuring Entity.

2. Eligibility Requirements

2.1. For the purpose of eligibility requirements, all the submitted documents in the electronic copy of the eligibility envelope shall be required for the assessment of bidders and evaluated in the sequence as follows:

(a) Class "A" Documents:

Legal Documents:

(i) Registration certificate from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for sole proprietorship, or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) for cooperatives, or any proof of such registration as stated in the TOR;

(ii) Mayor's permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located;

Technical Documents:

(iii) Statement of the prospective bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any, whether similar or not similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid, within the period specified in the TOR. The statement shall include, for each contract, the following:

(aa) Name and location of the contract;
(bb) Date of award of the contract;
(cc) Kind of goods or services;
(dd) For ongoing contracts, percentage of accomplishment;
(ee) Amount of contract and value of outstanding work(s);
(ff) Date of delivery and/or completion;
(gg) Contact details of procuring entity/owner/end-user/consultant or engineer for verification purposes;
(hh) Contract number; and
(ii) Certification of satisfactory completion or equivalent document certified by the procuring entity/owner/end-user/consultant or engineer.

(iv) Statement of the consultant specifying its nationality and confirming that there does not exist any conflict that renders the consultant ineligible to participate in the bidding, as set forth in Section 3.1 of this Instructions to Consultants (ITC);

Financial Documents:

(v) The consultant's audited financial statements, showing, among others, the consultant's total and current assets and liabilities, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year which should not be earlier than March 31 of the previous calendar year;

(b) Class "B" Documents:

Valid joint venture agreement (JVA), in case a joint venture is already in existence. In the absence of a JVA, duly notarized statements from all the members of the joint venture (to be submitted with the bid) stating that they intend to form a JV in the event that they are awarded the contract, and identifying the members to be assigned to perform the contract, their corresponding responsibilities, and their percentage participation, should be included in the eligibility envelope. Failure to enter into a contract should entail the guarantee forfeiture of the bid security. Each partner to the joint venture must submit the required eligibility documents. The submission of technical and financial documents by any of the joint venture partners constitutes compliance.

2.2. In the case of foreign consultants, the foregoing eligibility requirements under Class "A" documents may be substituted by the equivalent documents, if any, required by the foreign country of origin.

2.3. The eligibility requirements or statements and all other documents to be submitted to the BAC shall be in English. If any eligibility requirement or document is not in English, it must be officially translated into English by the relevant embassy in consulate of the Philippines. Such translation, the eligibility requirements under Sections 12 and 17 of the Consulting Services Act (RA 5183), as amended by PD 1746, and other requirements as may be specified in the TOR.

2.4. Pre-qualification documents, except for unamended printed literature, shall be signed, and each such page signed shall be initialed, by the duly authorized representative of the prospective bidder.

2.5. Any misrepresentations or falsehood in any of the documents submitted in the eligibility stage shall be a ground for the immediate disqualification of the prospective bidder.

3. Briefing and Briefing of Eligibility Documents

3.1. For this purpose, a briefing conference shall be held. A prospective bidder shall register in the eligibility documents envelope. Under Section 21.1 of the IRR of RA 9184, the Procuring Entity shall announce at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of eligibility documents, the date, time and place of the briefing conference. The Procuring Entity shall also post the announcement in the PhilGEPS website and in a conspicuous place in the premises of the Procuring Entity. The announcement must indicate the following: (a) the name of the project; (b) location of the contract to be bid; (c) a brief description of the nature of the contract to be bid; (d) the date, time and place where eligibility documents may be secured; and (e) the date, time and place of the briefing conference.

3.2. Only prospective bidders who have purchased the eligibility documents shall be allowed to participate in the briefing conference. Non-participation in the briefing conference shall not be a ground for disqualification.

3.3. The Procuring Entity or the BAC will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the prospective bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the date, time and the place specified in the IAEB. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

3.4. Letters of withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during the opening of eligibility documents and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn eligibility documents shall be returned unopened. For withdrawing prospective bidder, if the withdrawing prospective bidder's representative is present during the opening, the original eligibility documents and all copies thereof shall be returned to the representative during the opening of eligibility documents. If the representative is absent, the eligibility documents shall be returned unopened or registered mail.

3.5. A prospective bidder determined as ineligible may appeal in writing within seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of the opening of eligibility documents, post-qualification, letter notice or the resolution of reconsideration, and the BAC, Technical Working Group or Secretariat shall immediately resolve the appeal in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the 2009 revised IRR of RA 9184. Failure to appeal in the manner and within the period prescribed shall preclude the bidder from making judicial recourse. The decision of the BAC shall be final and executory after seven calendar days from receipt thereof, if no timely prospective bidder signifies his intent to file a request for reconsideration. In the case of a prospective bidder who is declared ineligible, the final and executory decision shall be made after the lapse of seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification or denial of request for reconsideration.

3.6. The eligibility documents envelopes and certifications, if any, shall be opened one at a time, and the following announced immediately:

(a) The name of the prospective bidder;
(b) Whether there is a withdrawal or substitution; and
(c) The presence or absence of the bidder representative.

3.7. The eligibility or bid evaluation shall be undertaken only by the BAC or its duly authorized and designated Technical Working Group (TWG), and shall not be undertaken in public view.

4. Post-Qualification

4.1. After opening the eligibility envelopes, the BAC shall determine whether the prospective bidder is qualified to perform the contract to be bid on the basis of its eligibility documents.

4.2. The BAC or the Procuring Entity shall make use of the short list of prospective bidders from those declared eligible during the validation set of criteria and rating applied to the short listing process.

4.3. Short listed prospective bidders shall be informed in writing by the Procuring Entity of their status and shall be invited to submit their bids.

4.4. Within a non-extendible period of three (3) calendar days from receipt of notice from the BAC that it is the lowest calculated bidder, the bidder shall submit the following documents:

(a) Original copy of bid security (if in the form of a surety bond, submit also a certification issued by the Insurance Commission);
(b) Original copy of Notarized Bid Securing Declaration; and
(c) Any additional document required in the ITB and/or BDS.

4.5. The Procuring Entity or the BAC will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on the date specified in the IAEB. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

4.6. Letters of withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during the opening of eligibility documents and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn eligibility documents shall be returned unopened. For withdrawing prospective bidder, if the withdrawing prospective bidder's representative is present during the opening, the original eligibility documents and all copies thereof shall be returned to the representative during the opening of eligibility documents. If the representative is absent, the eligibility documents shall be returned unopened or registered mail.

4.7. A prospective bidder determined as ineligible may appeal in writing within seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of the opening of eligibility documents, post-qualification, letter notice or the resolution of reconsideration, and the BAC, Technical Working Group or Secretariat shall immediately resolve the appeal in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the 2009 revised IRR of RA 9184. Failure to appeal in the manner and within the period prescribed shall preclude the bidder from making judicial recourse. The decision of the BAC shall be final and executory after seven calendar days from receipt thereof, if no timely prospective bidder signifies his intent to file a request for reconsideration. In the case of a prospective bidder who is declared ineligible, the final and executory decision shall be made after the lapse of seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification or denial of request for reconsideration.

4.8. The eligibility documents envelopes and certifications, if any, shall be opened one at a time, and the following announced immediately:

(a) The name of the prospective bidder;
(b) Whether there is a withdrawal or substitution; and
(c) The presence or absence of the bidder representative.

4.9. The eligibility or bid evaluation shall be undertaken only by the BAC or its duly authorized and designated Technical Working Group (TWG), and shall not be undertaken in public view.

5. Eligibility Requirements

5.1. The eligibility or bid evaluation shall be undertaken only by the BAC or its duly authorized and designated Technical Working Group (TWG), and shall not be undertaken in public view.

5.2. The eligibility requirements or statements and all other documents to be submitted to the BAC shall be in English. If any eligibility requirement or document is not in English, it must be officially translated into English by the relevant embassy in consulate of the Philippines. Such translation, the eligibility requirements under Sections 12 and 17 of the Consulting Services Act (RA 5183), as amended by PD 1746, and other requirements as may be specified in the TOR.

5.3. Pre-qualification documents, except for unamended printed literature, shall be signed, and each such page signed shall be initialed, by the duly authorized representative of the prospective bidder.

5.4. Any misrepresentations or falsehood in any of the documents submitted in the eligibility stage shall be a ground for the immediate disqualification of the prospective bidder.

6. Bidding and Bidding of Eligibility Documents

6.1. For this purpose, a briefing conference shall be held. A prospective bidder shall register in the eligibility documents envelopes. Under Section 21.1 of the IRR of RA 9184, the Procuring Entity shall announce at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of eligibility documents, the date, time and place of the briefing conference. The Procuring Entity shall also post the announcement in the PhilGEPS website and in a conspicuous place in the premises of the Procuring Entity. The announcement must indicate the following: (a) the name of the project; (b) location of the contract to be bid; (c) a brief description of the nature of the contract to be bid; (d) the date, time and place where eligibility documents may be secured; and (e) the date, time and place of the briefing conference.

6.2. Only prospective bidders who have purchased the eligibility documents shall be allowed to participate in the briefing conference. Non-participation in the briefing conference shall not be a ground for disqualification.

6.3. The Procuring Entity or the BAC will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the date, time and the place specified in the IAEB. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

6.4. Letters of withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during the opening of eligibility documents and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn eligibility documents shall be returned unopened. For withdrawing prospective bidder, if the withdrawing prospective bidder's representative is present during the opening, the original eligibility documents and all copies thereof shall be returned to the representative during the opening of eligibility documents. If the representative is absent, the eligibility documents shall be returned unopened or registered mail.

6.5. A prospective bidder determined as ineligible may appeal in writing within seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of the opening of eligibility documents, post-qualification, letter notice or the resolution of reconsideration, and the BAC, Technical Working Group or Secretariat shall immediately resolve the appeal in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the 2009 revised IRR of RA 9184. Failure to appeal in the manner and within the period prescribed shall preclude the bidder from making judicial recourse. The decision of the BAC shall be final and executory after seven calendar days from receipt thereof, if no timely prospective bidder signifies his intent to file a request for reconsideration. In the case of a prospective bidder who is declared ineligible, the final and executory decision shall be made after the lapse of seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification or denial of request for reconsideration.

6.6. The eligibility documents envelopes and certifications, if any, shall be opened one at a time, and the following announced immediately:

(a) The name of the prospective bidder;
(b) Whether there is a withdrawal or substitution; and
(c) The presence or absence of the bidder representative.

6.7. The eligibility or bid evaluation shall be undertaken only by the BAC or its duly authorized and designated Technical Working Group (TWG), and shall not be undertaken in public view.

7. Opening and Preliminary Examination of Eligibility Documents

7.1. The Procuring Entity or the BAC will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the date, time and the place specified in the IAEB. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

7.2. Letters of withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during the opening of eligibility documents and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn eligibility documents shall be returned unopened. For withdrawing prospective bidder, if the withdrawing prospective bidder's representative is present during the opening, the original eligibility documents and all copies thereof shall be returned to the representative during the opening of eligibility documents. If the representative is absent, the eligibility documents shall be returned unopened or registered mail.

7.3. A prospective bidder determined as ineligible may appeal in writing within seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of the opening of eligibility documents, post-qualification, letter notice or the resolution of reconsideration, and the BAC, Technical Working Group or Secretariat shall immediately resolve the appeal in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the 2009 revised IRR of RA 9184. Failure to appeal in the manner and within the period prescribed shall preclude the bidder from making judicial recourse. The decision of the BAC shall be final and executory after seven calendar days from receipt thereof, if no timely prospective bidder signifies his intent to file a request for reconsideration. In the case of a prospective bidder who is declared ineligible, the final and executory decision shall be made after the lapse of seven calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification or denial of request for reconsideration.

7.4. The eligibility documents envelopes and certifications, if any, shall be opened one at a time, and the following announced immediately:

(a) The name of the prospective bidder;
(b) Whether there is a withdrawal or substitution; and
(c) The presence or absence of the bidder representative.

7.5. The eligibility or bid evaluation shall be undertaken only by the BAC or its duly authorized and designated Technical Working Group (TWG), and shall not be undertaken in public view.

8. Eligibility Documents Submission Form

[date]

[name and address of the Procuring Entity]

[contract reference no.]

In connection with your Request for Expression of Interest dated [date] for the Office of Project[ ] [name of Consultant] submits [number] consultancy in the eligibility and short listing for said Project, and submits the following documents in accordance with the Eligibility Documents checklist:

In accordance with the requirements, we certify that:

(a) Neither I/we nor any of my/our associates or subsidiaries, nor any of my/our directors, officers, shareholders, or members has ever been declared ineligible by the GOP or any of its agencies, offices, corporations, or local government/barangay or international financing institution whose membership I/we have been recognized by the GOP for any cause, including but not limited to, financial insolvency, conviction of a crime, or violation of the Philippine Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act;

(b) None of the documents submitted hereunder is an authentic copy of the original, complete, and all statements and information provided therein are true and correct;

(c) We are duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines and/or [name of country] and/or [name of country] and/or [name of country]

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the general public that **MICHAEL JHANN CASTILLO BARREDO**, whose picture appears herein, is no longer accredited with **ATLANTIC GLOBE MOVERS INC.** effective December 29, 2011. Any transactions entered into by this person for and in behalf of the company shall no longer be honored.

NOTICE

VEGA MANILA CREWMANAGEMENT, INC.
Manila office has moved to:

5th Floor
AIC Burgundy Empire Tower
ADB Avenue cor Sapphire Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Telefax No.: 63 (2) 584-9888 / 571-8878 / 571-5888
Email: **vmci@vega-manila.com.ph**
Website: **www.vega-manila.com.ph**

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

NOTICE TO ALL MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, AND PROJECT CONTRACTORS

DATE: TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2012
TIME: 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM
VENUE: [illegible]
AGENDA: BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR BANANA AND SPECIFICATIONS APPROVED

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION ON OR BEFORE 20 JANUARY 2012 THRU EMAIL ADDRESS: [illegible] or TELEFAX NO. 426-04-28

FOR ANY RELATED CALL FOR DETAILS CALL WAZZUP THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / TRAINING / DEPUTY NE TELEPHONE NOS. 929-2123 AND 929-2010

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

Atty. EDITH S. BUENO
Administrator

People, Events & Products

Everything set for Condura Skyway Marathon 2012

JUST THOSE running shoes ready as the premiere running event in the country is all set to celebrate its fifth year with an all new adversary and concept that for the Manganese at midnight and extend that vision.

The event is slated on Sunday, Feb. 5, with the race starting and finishing at Filinvest Alabang, touted as the newest running destination in Manila.

Dubbed as the Condura Skyway Marathon (CSM) 2012: Run for the Mangroves, this annual race aims to be just more again by challenging running enthusiasts to conquer the Philippines' first ever midnight marathon at the Metro Manila Skyway.

With about 15,000 participants competing in 42 race categories (3K, 5K, 10K, 21K, and 42K), all of them can look forward to a very unique running experience as everyone goes up the Skyway.

Marathoners get to bask in the entire stretch of the Skyway that crosses five Metro Manila cities, from Muntinlupa, Pasay, Taguig, Pasig to Makati and back. This further underscores Condura Skyway Marathon's mark as the premier running event in the country and soon in the Asia Pacific Region.

Organized by runners for runners, this annual sporting event puts utmost priority on the safety and security of the participants by providing well-spaced and well-stocked hydration stations, professional medical teams and seasoned race marshals.

And as a run after the grueling race, the event will culminate in the Condura Filipino Village where runners, together with their families, can enjoy loads of entertainment, fireworks and product sampling. A mangroves wall also awaits the runners. This will be painted and decorated as a symbol of the runners' commitment to save the Philippine mangroves.

A game-changer, the Condura Skyway Marathon has raised over P1.5 million since 2008. The proceeds have been used on notable projects that protect and save for the marine ecosystem such as the Subterranean Reefs, the Coastal rehabilitation and the Bakawan Eco-Park.

For the 2012 leg, CSM has acknowledged the importance of mangroves in preserving the Philippines' ecosystem.

It has committed to support the mangroves reforestation project in Silanguy Bay Zamboanga that would benefit thousands of families living in the coastal areas. One runner donates, here mangroves to the 10 hectare Condura Skyway Marathon Mangrove Forest that covers three barangays in the municipality.

Long distance runners and even newbies get beautifully-crafted medals to cap their memorable running experience. Cash prizes, trophies and gift items are at stake for top finishers in the Open and All Filipino categories.

The Condura Skyway Marathon Registration Centers are open up to Jan. 29. These are located in Shoemart, Robinsons Global City, Rockwell Bogie Center, Banjaneans and Pretzel Supermall Alabang.

For online registration and further details, log on to www.condurskywaymarathon.com.

MANULIFE'S 3,000TH INSURANCE ADVISER
Gina Chung (fourth from right), who recently became the 3,000th insurance adviser of Manulife Philippines, is congratulated by fellow Bankers president and chief executive officer after her formal appointment. Our newly appointed adviser of South Star Drug Unit based in Manulife's Ayala, Makati branch, Chung was recruited in November and in advance of the company's business goal to reach 3,000 agents by the end of the year. Also in photo are, from left, Milan Chu, Bankers Insurance Corporation chairman; Co-president national agency support and development; Robin Chua, region head - Magallanes South; Ruby Dimasuco, branch head - South Cotabato; Josephine Chua, unit head - South Red Oak; John Carlo, senior vice president and chief agency officer; Stephen Ong, senior assistant vice president and agency director - Metro Manila Chinchon; and John Chua, senior region head - Metro South)

adobo magazine wins Philippine Quill Awards Grand Prix anew

THE COVERIFY'S premier publication for the advertising and brand communication industry, adobo magazine, repeats the feat it achieved in 2011 by winning the Award of the Year at the 11th Philippine Quill Awards recently at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

The Philippine Quill Awards is the local edition of the global Quills, given by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The awards fall into 27 categories given out to those in Internal Communication Management, Communication Skills and Communication Genius. This year's winning entry centered on Publication Design in the Communications Creative category leveraging on the magazine's current redesign.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer was awarded the Grand Prix for Communication Management for the Small-scale Inquirer Read-Along program for its 20th anniversary while Insular Life Insurance Company Ltd. won the Communication Skills Grand Prix for its 100th anniversary coffee table book, Smart Communications brought home the most Quills, with 14 trophies in total.

"Winning the top award last year was such a great honor and also one is even more so," says adobo magazine's publisher and editor-in-chief Abigail Gutierrez. "It small means such an award is spread to be seen in the same league as the top corporations in terms of communication, which is indeed our likelihood. We have always wanted to lead on both print and digital by championing creativity and effectiveness. This award validates our purpose and our work."

Continues Gutierrez, "In a way our win highlights the importance of design in business. It is something the ad industry we serve has long known and we want to let one and for."

"We share this award with the Russell Reynolds team at Wunderkin, who have made it possible for us to enter our fifth year with a new look and direction," says Gutierrez.

Through a new grid system and overhauled layout, the magazine updated its look and attracted more advertisers. The changes are by no means complete, as further tweaks will be made in the content and navigation in 2012.

The Grand Prix caps a great year for the magazine, which reaped successful events including the adobo Portland Cup, adobo Art of the Bod, the adobo Photo Affair (both in and more recently, the launch of the online DIY/Kindle/eBook series.

The year-ender issue of adobo is now available at magazine outlets nationwide and in Southeast Asia through Bookware Graphic Books. For subscription inquiries or to signup for adobo's E-zine e-mail newsletter, e-mail info@adobomagazine.com or call 911-2345-6218.

ABIGAIL Gutierrez, Angel Guerrero and Jack Velasco

2013 Panasonic scholarships on

THE PANASONIC Group of companies in the Philippines is now accepting applications for the 2013 Panasonic Scholarship Program, a three-year research and master's degree scholarship package in Japan from April 2013 to March 2016.

The program offers financial assistance to promising students who can contribute not only to the development of their countries, but also to promote mutual friendship between their home countries and Japan.

It is open to graduating or university graduate with distinguished academic records and must have completed at least 15 years of formal education (inclusive of elementary, high school, undergraduate study, and master's degree units) or have been accepted as eligible for enrollment at the targeted graduate students/studies in Japan.

Applications forms may be downloaded from Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp. (PMPC) website: www.panasonic.com.ph or www.panasonic.com.ph/web/aboutpanasonic/corporatecitizenship. You can also e-mail at pmpc_scholarship@ph.panasonic.com. The deadline for submission of application together with the required documents is on April 27. These must be sent through courier or hand carried to: Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation, Panasonic Scholarship Office (Philippines), PMPC - Trinity Compound, Ortigas Avenue Ext., Taytay Rizal 1920.

For more information, please contact Miss Janice B. Garcia at tel. no. 284-2293 (Telefax), 633-2300, local 2818/2815 (Hotel line) or 9910-9112788.

HGC chief at first Creba monthly meet

HOME Guaranty Corp. (HGC) president Jaime Manuel R. Sanchez will be the guest of honor and speaker during the first monthly business meeting of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc. (Creba) to be held on Jan. 16, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel InterContinental.

Founded in 1972 by known real estate leader and advocate Manuel M. Serrano, Creba is the largest Philippine umbrella organization of individuals, business corporations, and professional associations engaged in housing and real estate development with 36 chapters all over the Philippines. Among its members are real estate developers, contractors, lenders, appraisers, financiers, suppliers manufacturers and distributors, architects and urban planners, engineers, economists, and social scientists.

Charlie A. D'Guanyek, Creba national president, said that Sanchez is expected to highlight HGC's present and future plans and programs on housing. HGC was created by virtue of Republic Act (RA) 9179 to promote sustainable home ownership by providing risk coverage, guarantees and tax or fiscal incentives to banks, financial institutions and other investors granting housing development loans and home financing.

Admitted to the Philippine bar in 1968, Sanchez holds a Masters Degree in International Policies from Fordham University - New York.

ATI CONDUCTS CHARITY WORKS

Publicly listed sportswear division Team Philippines Inc. (ATI) conducted separate charity works in response to the recent calamity to hit northeastern Mindanao and Samar for the holidays. Banking on its organizational network, ATI also conducted school donations through its neighboring Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for use in relief operations for the victims of tropical storm "Sendong" in Cagayan de Oro, Compostela Valley, Iligan and Bicolor Oriental. ATI employees also donated food, clothes, sandalwood and other goods through talks with public relations group Bantay Bayanihan Foundation Inc. to help in relief and rehabilitation measures to the victims. Meanwhile, ATI continued bringing the Christmas cheer to the children at SOWO Manila-based Action Center as it hosted a mini-Christmas party for its residents aged 1 to 10 years old. The center shelters abused, abandoned and street kids rescued in Manila. To top the activity, ATI handed over household materials to SOWO-BAC which would benefit some 500 children residents. Left photo shows ATI's CVP-retail Schuyler handing over a check donation to PNRC director for administration Red Paragas while photo at right shows SOWO's beloved social workers led by OIC Jean Amante receiving the donation from ATI employees.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Twenty Million Six Hundred Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Pesos only (Php 20,642,490.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contracts for the works described below for the various schools in the Division of Cebu Province as follows:

Clause	School	Municipality	Scope of Works	ABC	Duration
1	Tabagnon ES Alabang ES Mabai ES San Fernando (SBE) Bonbon (SBE) Poblo (SBE) Canag (CBE)	Minglanilla Mandaue San Fernando San Fernando Mandaue San Fernando Minglanilla	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,765,000.00	150 C.D.
2	Tabunan ES Mahayag ES Mahayag NHS Tungkop (SBE) San Fernando (SBE) Kayee (SBE)	Sogod Aloguinsan Aloguinsan Aloguinsan San Fernando Sogod	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II & III 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,776,000.00	150 C.D.
3	Cansaga ES Cansaga NHS Compostela NHS Tagbao (SBE)	Compostela Compostela Compostela Dumanjug	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II & III 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,771,164.00	150 C.D.
4	Tabili (CS) Kagdito ES Tubo ES Manawan ES Mandawa (SBE) Angilan (SBE) Poblacion (SBE)	Santa Fe Poblacion Poblacion Poblacion Poblacion Poblacion Poblacion	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type III 3-Storey Trailer Type III 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type III 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,778,000.00	150 C.D.
5	Dalaw ES Pasil ES Poblacion Cabanal (SBE) Cabanbanan ES Bo-Ongan (SBE) Bo-Ongan NHS Bo-Ongan (SBE)	Asturias Asturias Asturias Asturias Asturias Asturias Asturias	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type III 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,780,500.00	150 C.D.
6	Tabunoc ES Mabunoc ES Tupas ES San Roque (CS) Bugas ES Sn Jose-P Cabo (SBE) Malingin (SBE) Kamot (SBE)	Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan Tuburan	Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing	1,643,120.00	150 C.D.
7	Tabuelan ES San Rafael (SBE) San Rafael NHS Sudlon (SBE) Lagtop NHS Lanang (SBE) Cansomoroy (SBE)	Tabuelan Tabuelan Tabuelan San Remigio San Remigio San Remigio Medellin	Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing	1,666,000.00	150 C.D.
8	Sapod CES Tabionan ES Sapod ES Bonbon CES Cambuhat ES Cabanawan NHS Lilo (SBE)	Sogod Sogod Sogod Sogod Sogod Sogod Sogod	Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing Trailer & Handwashing	1,116,000.00	150 C.D.
9	Mantuyan (CS) Magay ES Tabunoc ES Sta-ol ES Cabi ES Cordova NES Lamaan (SBE)	Liloan Compostela Consolacion Cordova Cordova Cordova Consolacion	3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II 3-Storey Trailer Type II	1,779,970.00	150 C.D.
			TOTAL	20,642,490.00	

The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above-mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC per cluster shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bid shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per cluster basis.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last ten (10) years from date of submission and receipt of bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, validation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184. Information is also available at www.philgeps.gov

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	January 11, 2012, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Division of Cebu Province
Pre-Bid Conference	January 18, 2012, 10:00 A.M.	Division of Cebu Province
Submission and Opening of Bids	February 1, 2012, 9:00 A.M. (Cluster 1-3) February 2, 2012, 9:00 A.M. (Cluster 4-5)	Division of Cebu Province

The Bidding Documents may be inspected or purchased at the address previously indicated below upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00 per cluster by interested bidders. It may be viewed at the website of the PhilGEPS. Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) and Special Power of Attorney for Authorized representative are required.

DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare Bidders of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

ROSALIE DE LA CRUZ-DE LOS REYES
BAC Chairperson

(IQ – Jan. 15, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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pursuant to the Labor Code and Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for the period 12 January 2012 to 11 January 2014 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violations of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 12th day of January 2012.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRIPPINE
Regional Director

(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date.)

(BW – January 15, 2012)

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WAVE 2

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE GLOBAL FUND TUBERCULOSIS RCC PHASE 2

The **Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)**, the Principal Recipient in the Philippines of the Global Fund to Fight Tuberculosis, is inviting for a second wave of application among qualified institutions to be a sub-recipient for any of the unpaid components of the DP RCC Grant Phase 2 entitled, ***Sustaining TB Control and Ensuring Access to Comprehensive Quality TB Care.***

• Public Hospital based DOTS (Code: SDA – 1.1)

Global Fund supports the NTP in its ways of incorporating the DOTS standards within public hospitals. Such standards are set to be disseminated through policy issuance, orientation and advocacy activities. DOTS training courses and necessary technical assistance will be given to enhance the enabling environment for participation in TB-control by other local hospitals.

• TB HIV (Code: SDA – 3)

Expansion of TB HIV collaborative approach aims to promote further the provider initiated counseling and testing (PICT); conduct of HIV testing and provision of antiretroviral treatment (ART) for patients identified with TB/HIV co-infection; Technical assistance shall also be provided during training of staff at HIV treatment hubs for managing HIV/AIDS cases with concomitant TB.

• Private Hospital-Based DOTS & Private DOTS HCW Training (Code: SDA- 4)

Strengthening Public Private Partnership in the management and control of tuberculosis through:
a. Advocacy and adaptation of the National TB Program in Private Hospitals, Schools, Workplaces, etc.
b. Capacity building to all Private Health Care Providers.
c. DOTS clinics in Private Hospitals

• Community TB Care (Code: SDA-5)

The grant will assist NGSH strategies and community-based groups in the dissemination of TB information, treatment supervision, patients and patients' family support and networking among health providers to support NTP implementation at the barangay level.

Project sites are as follows:

1. NCR – Pateros, Marikina, Makati, Mandaluyong, Las Pinas, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pasay
2. Region 3 – Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales
3. Region 4A – Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal
4. ARMM – Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-tawi

• i-TIS – Health Info System (Code: SDA – 7)

Capacity building on the use and maintenance of the integrated TB Information System to all public health facilities.

Eligibility Criteria

Any public or private organization can apply as SR. Philippine TB-HIV and CSH members are welcome to apply. However, once awarded with a grant, the organization must resign from their membership/post from the aforementioned committees. (This is aligned with the Conflict of Interest Policy of the Philippine CCM). To express interest, pls.

1. Email zatherine@pbsp@yahoo.com to request copy of the full application guideline. Pls. write **BCRCC, Phase 2 SDA (component code)** in the subject line.
2. Download the application guideline at www.pbsp@ph.org.ph www.pbsp.org.ph
3. Contact Ms. Zatherine Pilarca at tel. no. (+)02 8000 to 89 mobile no. 0915-0000001. Fax no. 2100000.

Deadline: February 01, 2012

Note: Open only to new applicants.

Sustaining TB Control and Ensuring Access to Comprehensive Quality TB Care Project

The Global Fund

(PSI-Jan. 15 & 16, 2012)

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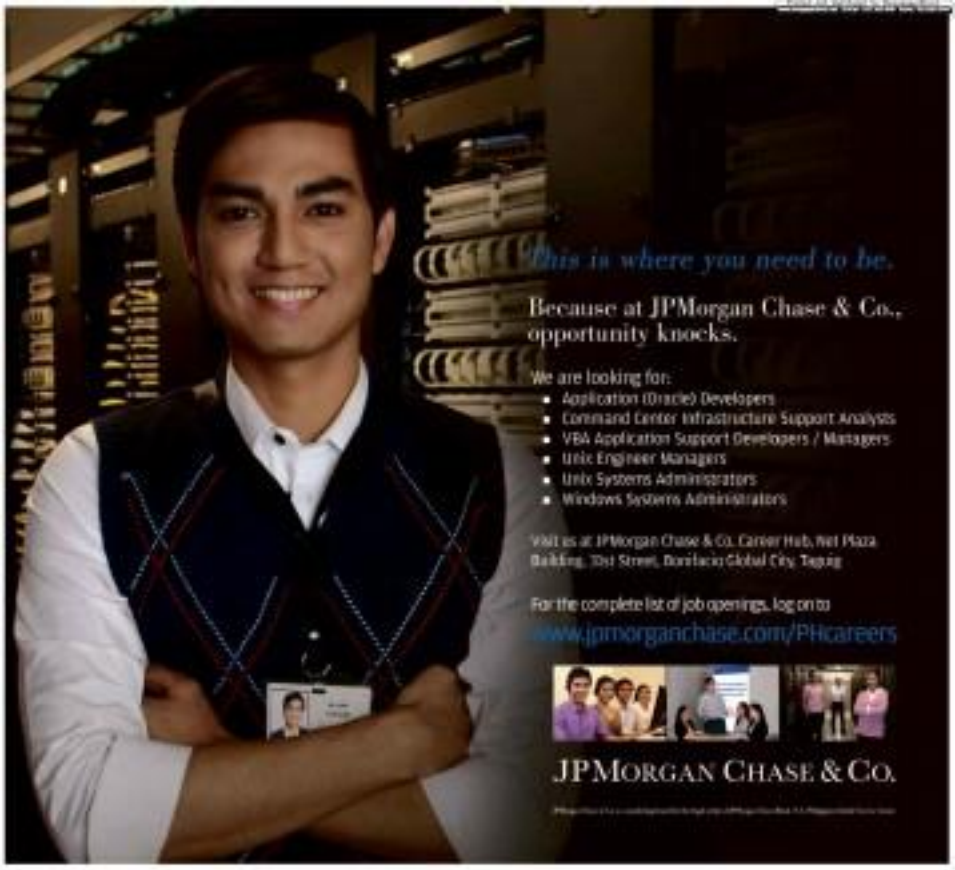

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Full-Time position available ASAP.

Please email your detailed resume with picture at jo.brandlee@gmail.com or apply personally from 9am to 4pm on January 20, & 21, 2012 or you may contact us at 416-7782 and look for Mr. Alberto or Ms. Marie .

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